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"*Ai Yori Aoshi* is.. tender, sweet, and heartfelt, with beautiful art that never gets in the way of its simple story."
– S.A. Bennett, *Comic Buyers Guide*

Miyabi arrives with some shocking news: The boarding house is closed, and everyone has one night to pack their belongings and leave! Meanwhile, the other "Kaoru" continues to woo Aoi, since he will inherit the Hanabishi family fortune. Will Kaoru's true love be lost forever?!

THE MANGA REVOLUTION • LEADING THE MANGA REVOLUTION • 漫画革命

OT
OLDER TEEN
AGE 16+

ROMANCE

AI YORI AOSHI
藍より青し
16
Kou Fumizuki
TOKYOPOP

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AI YORI AOSHI

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AI YORI AOSHI™

VOLUME 16

STORY & ART
BY
KOU FUMIZUKI

TOKYOPOP®

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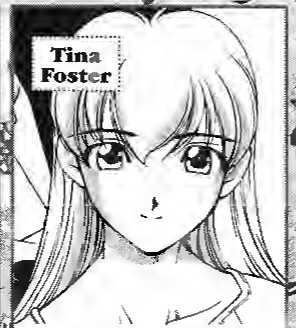
Uzume (Ferret)

It was being raised by Tina, but now for some reason, it has gotten attached to Miyabi.

Taeko Minazuki

A third-year student in the photography club. She's clumsy and awkward, but she tries her hardest at everything she does.



Tina Foster

A fourth-year student at Meiritsu University. She, like Kaoru, is in the photography club. An American who was raised in Hakata.

Chika Minazuki

Taeko's cousin. A student in her first year of high school. An energetic girl who always has a tan. She's staying in the boarding house next to the Sakuraba manor.

Natsuki Komiya

Chika's classmate and a fellow member of the swimming club. She's always bright and energetic. She's under the misguided assumption that Kaoru is Chika's boyfriend.

Chizuru Aizawa

Chika's classmate. She was invited by Chika to join the swimming club, even though she can't swim. She has a gentle, quiet personality.

Mayu Miyuki

The daughter of the head of Miyuki Fabrics, she entered Meiritsu University at the age of sixteen through a special consideration for students who have lived abroad. She met Kaoru when she was little, and even now she is in love with him.

Kaoru Hanabishi was torn away from his mother when he was very young and raised as the heir of the Hanabishi Zaibatsu; however, he found he was unable to endure the harsh responsibilities placed on him and he ran away from home to live by himself. He continued life in this fashion right up until the arrival of Aoi Sakuraba, who had been his betrothed and who loved him for eighteen years. Kaoru was blown away by her devotion, but her request for him to go back to the Hanabishi was the one thing he could not do. Aoi recognized the pain this caused Kaoru, so she decided to leave her own family, the Sakurabas, instead. Rather than lose her daughter, Aoi's mother conceded to allow the two of them to live together.

The couple moved to a western-style house that had previously been one of the Sakuraba's summer homes, and they now share the estate with Aoi's guardian, Miyabi Kagurazaki. There is a catch, though—while Aoi and Miyabi live in the main house, Kaoru has to live in the boarding house adjacent to it.

Shortly after, Tina Foster and Taeko Minazuki, members of Kaoru's photography club, moved into the boarding house as well, in order to avoid creating a scandal for the Sakuraba family. Aoi must keep up the pretense that she is Kaoru's landlady, and not his fiancée.

Some time has passed since the charade began. Mayu Miyuki has returned from England, and Taeko's cousin, Chika Minazuki, has joined the group of friends. Ironically, the more women that gather around Kaoru, the deeper his and Aoi's feelings for each other become.

However, now that the head of the Hanabishi, Kaoru's grandfather, has passed away, Kaoru's younger half-brother is due to become the heir to the family estate. The only thing between him and his fate is a stipulation in their grandfather's will that [illegible] he [illegible] Kaoru [illegible] manor and confined her to the premises...

藍より青し

Summary of the story so far...

Kaoru Hanabishi

A graduate student at Meiritsu University. He was going to be the next head of the Hanabishi Zaibatsu, but now he's living in the boarding house next to one of the Sakuraba summer homes.

Aoi Sakuraba

Kaoru Hanabishi's betrothed [illegible] also the heiress [illegible] prestigious Sakuraba dry goods store (now Sakuraba Department Store).

Miyabi Kagurazaki

Aoi's guardian from when she was young. She manages the lives of Aoi and Kaoru.

"Kaoru" Hanabishi

Kaoru's half-brother. After the older Kaoru left the Hanabishi, the younger sibling was named as the heir. The only catch is, according to their grandfather's will, he cannot inherit the family estate unless he marries Aoi.

Chapter 127: Imachi—Sitting and Waiting

AI YORI AOSHI

藍より青 16

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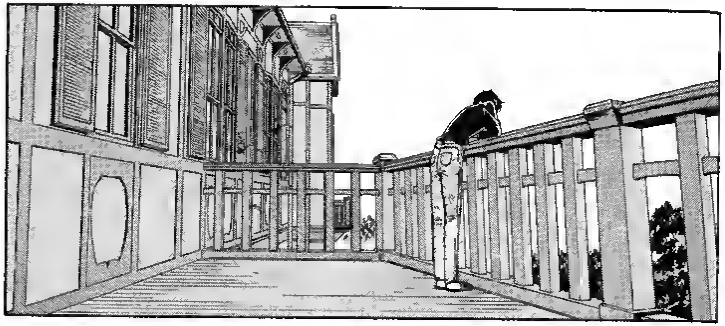
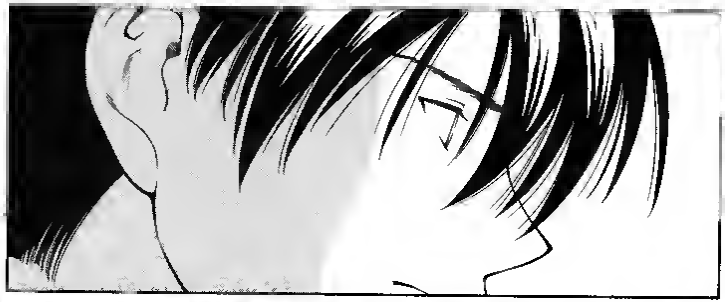
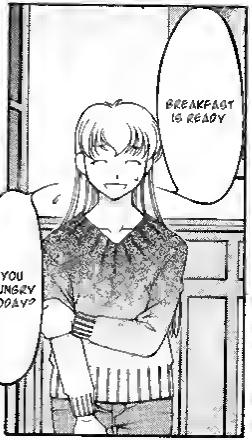
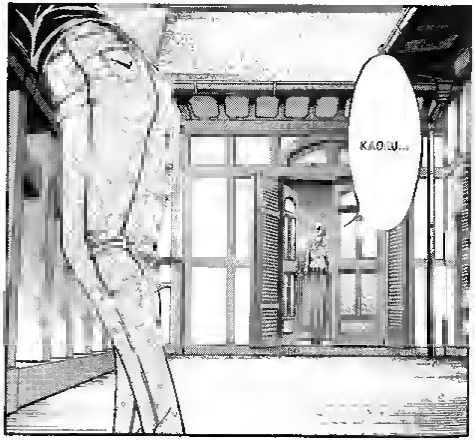
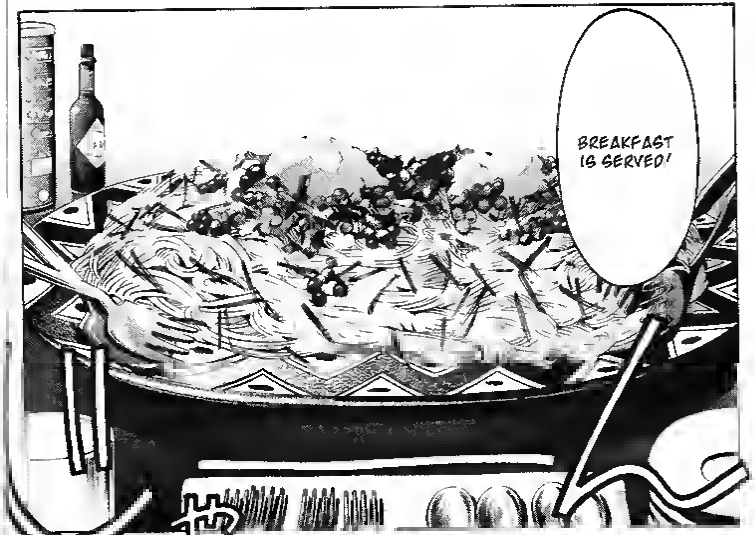
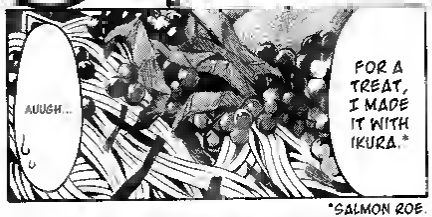








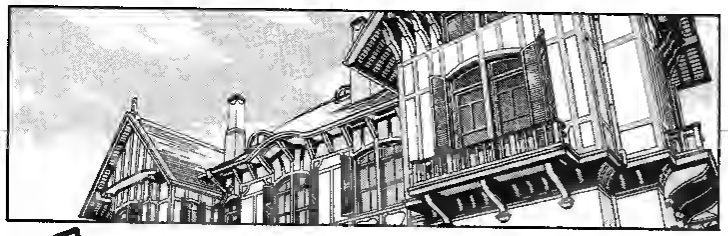


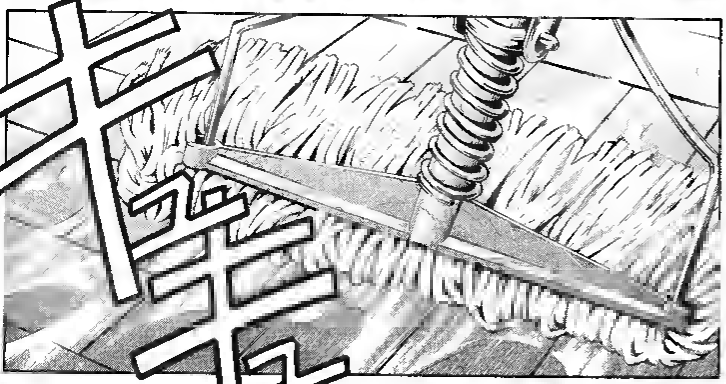


*SALMON ROE.

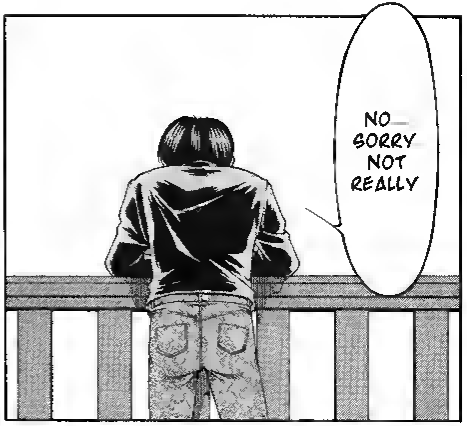
*SALTED POLLACK OR COD ROE, SPICED WITH RED PEPPER

YOU'RE RIGHT
328
COME AND SIT WITH US—
YOU'VE BARELY EATEN A THING IN DAYS



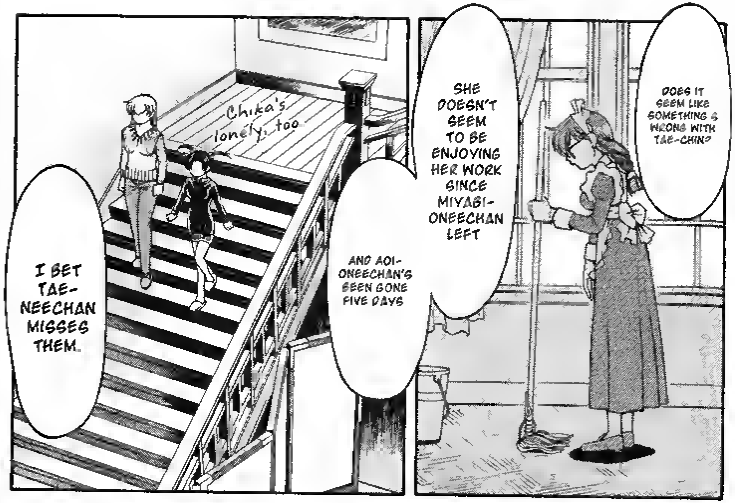

キュキュ

O-OKAY, THEN

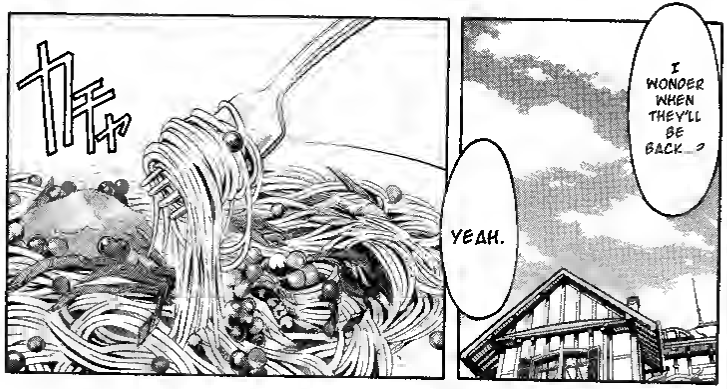

NO— SORRY NOT REALLY

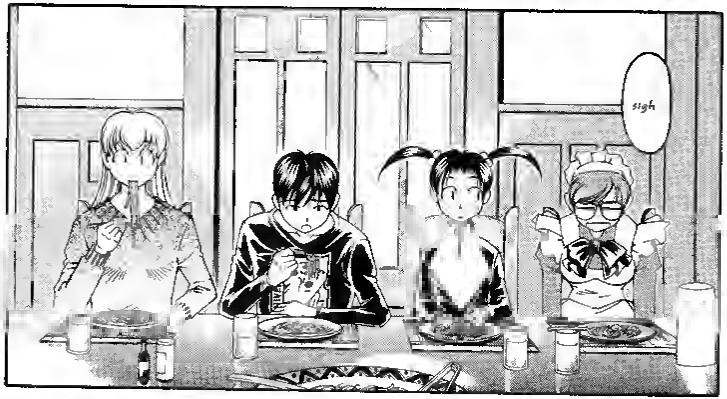
ぼふ
HUFF
PLEASE, ONII-CHAN! YOU'LL STARVE!!

Sigh...
TAE-CHIIIIN! TAAAAE-CHIN!
YEEEEEGGS, AAAAHHH
TIME FOR CHOW! I MEAN BREAKFAST!
YES FINE UNDER-STOOD
TINA-SENPAI

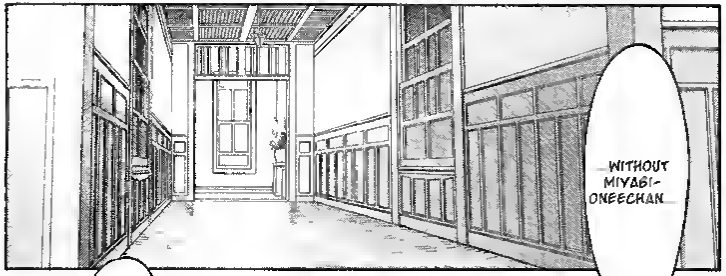

Chika's lonely, too
I BET TAE-NEECHAN MISSES THEM.
AND AOI-ONEECHAN'S BEEN GONE FIVE DAYS
SHE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ENJOYING HER WORK SINCE MIYABI-ONEECHAN LEFT
DOES IT SEEM LIKE SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH TAE-CHIN?

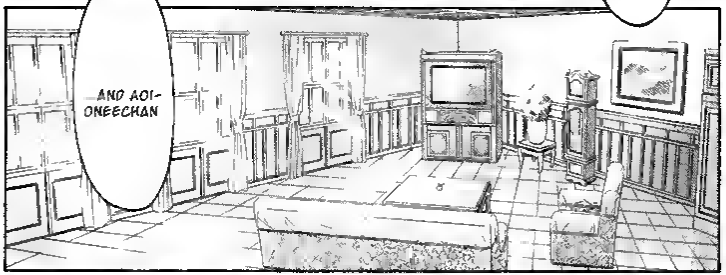
THIS MANSION FEELS SO EMPTY...

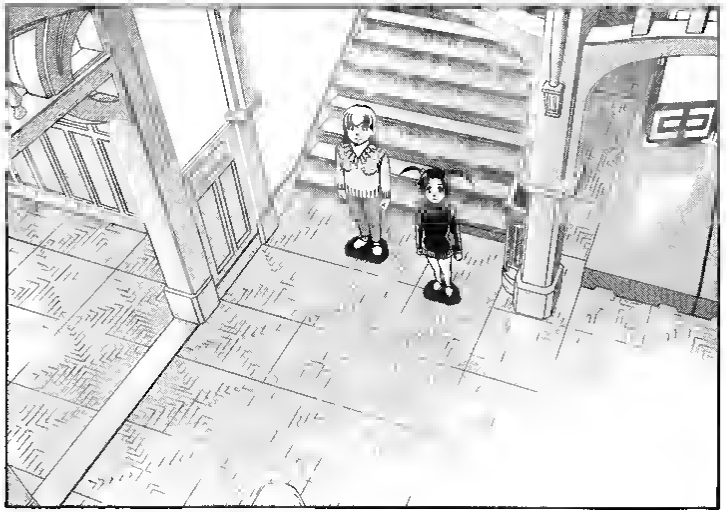

I WONDER WHEN THEY'LL BE BACK...?
YEAH.

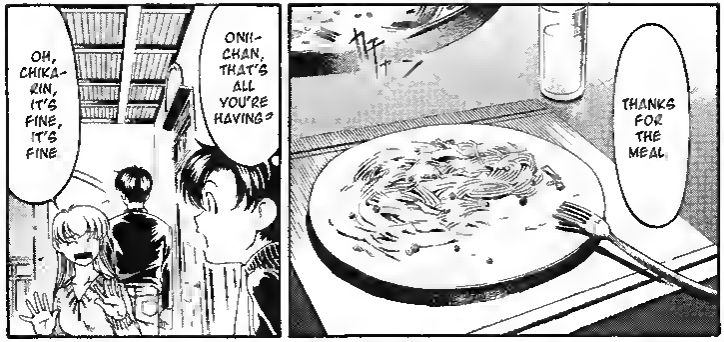

sigh

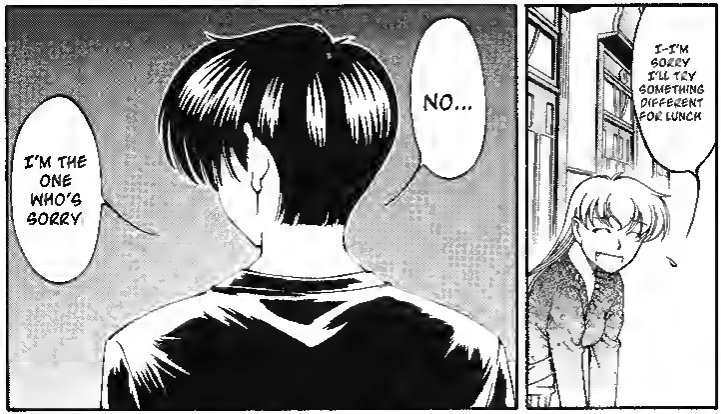
T-TAE-NEECHAN, YOU KNOW WHAT WOULD BE GOOD? IF YOU COULD MAKE YOUR SPECIAL DINNER!
AND CHIKA CAN MAKE HER SPECIAL STAMINA YAKISOBA

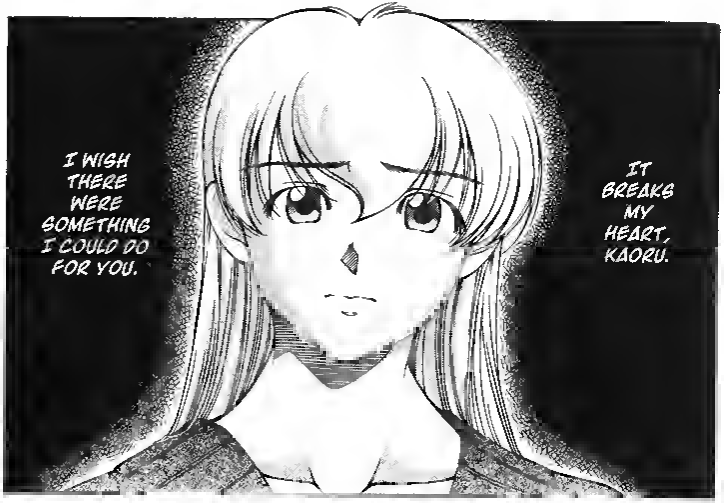

...WITHOUT MIYABI-ONEECHAN...


...AND AOI-ONEECHAN




OH, CHIKA-RIN, IT'S FINE, IT'S FINE
ONII-CHAN, THAT'S ALL YOU'RE HAVING?
THANKS FOR THE MEAL

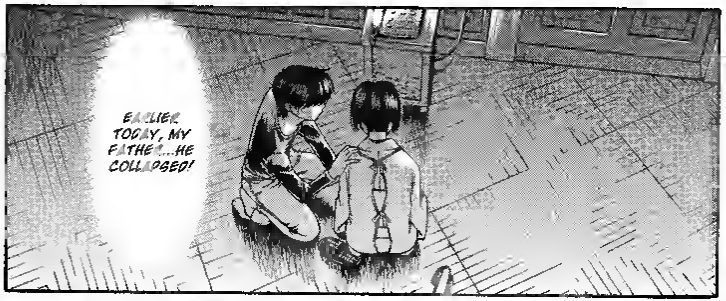

I'M THE ONE WHO'S SORRY
NO...
I-I'M SORRY I'LL TRY SOMETHING DIFFERENT FOR LUNCH

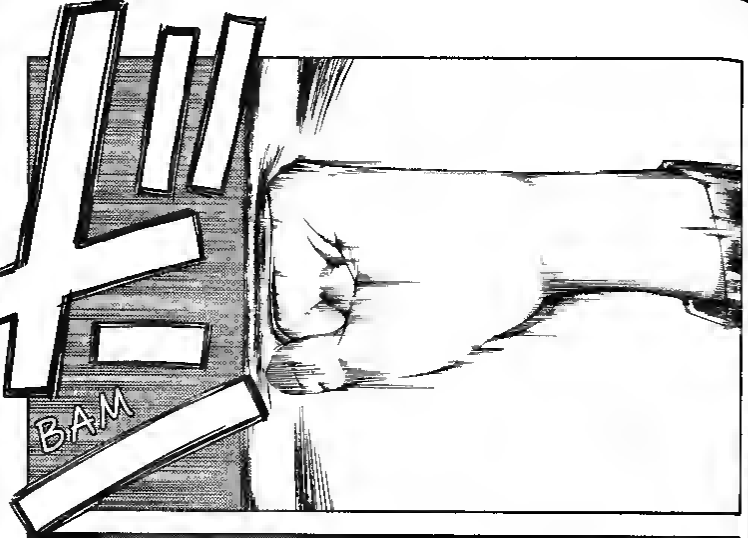

I WISH THERE WERE SOMETHING I COULD DO FOR YOU.
IT BREAKS MY HEART, KAORU.

...YOU'RE THE ONE SUFFERING THE MOST. AND YET...
WITH LANDLADY-SAN GONE...

BAM

I'LL BE ALL RIGHT.


EARLIER TODAY, MY FATHER...HE COLLAPSED!


B.A.M

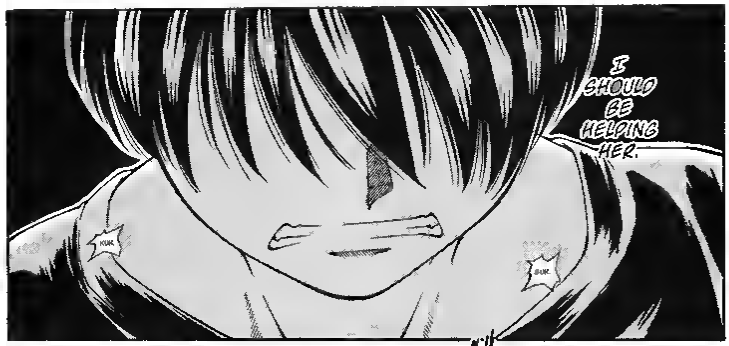
I SHOULD BE COMFORTING AOI-CHAN AT A TIME LIKE THIS.

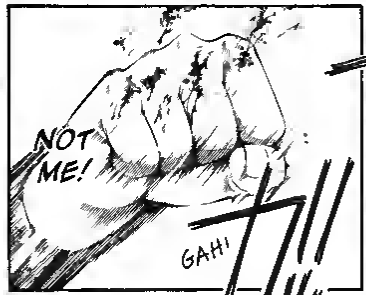
WHAM

THE SAKURABA DON'T APPROVE OF OUR RELATIONSHIP.

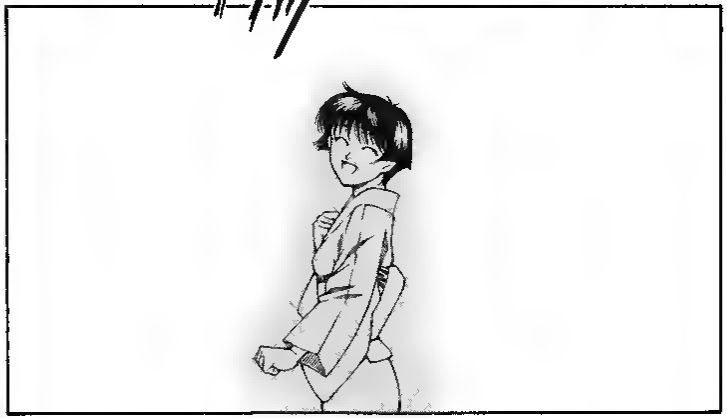
FATHER...

I'M COMPLETELY AND TOTALLY HELPLESS!


I SHOULD BE HELPING HER.
HUK
SUK

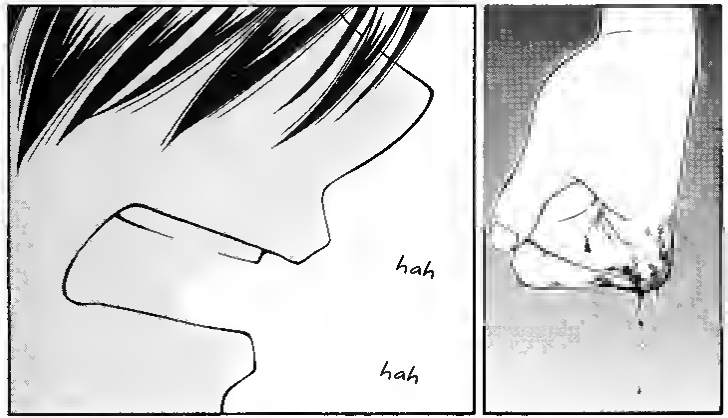

NOT ME!
GAH!

WHAM
BUT NO!



UAAAHH!!
NOOOOO!!

GAHH!
KAORU
KAO--


hah
hah

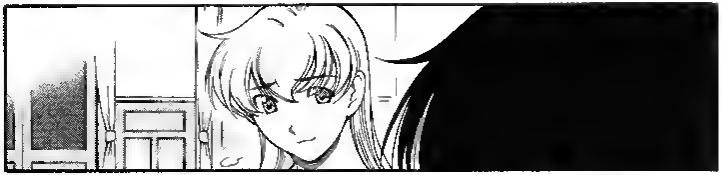
藍より青し

AI YORI AOSHI

Chapter 128: Souji—Resemblance

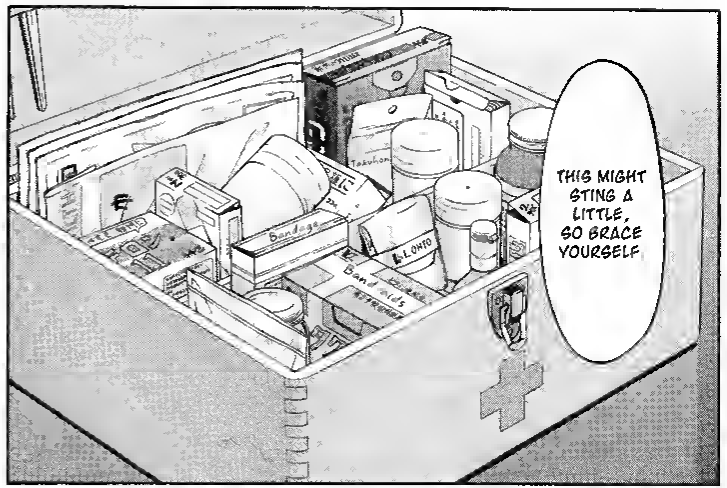
End of Chapter 127: Imachi—Sitting and Waiting

I'M SORRY.



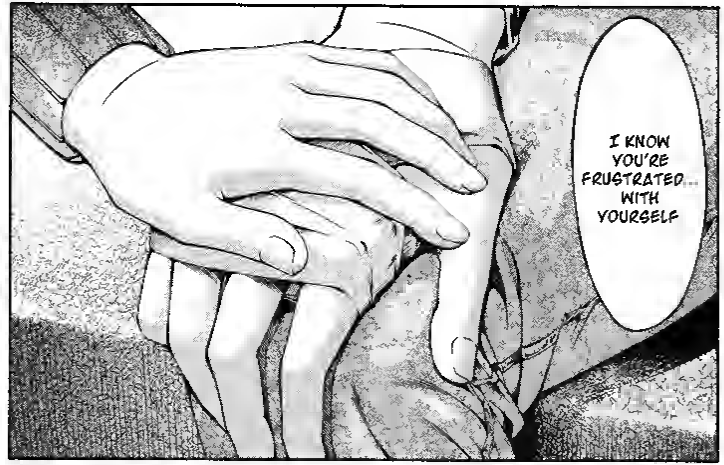
A MAN SHOULDN'T HAVE TO APOLOGIZE AT A TIME LIKE THIS

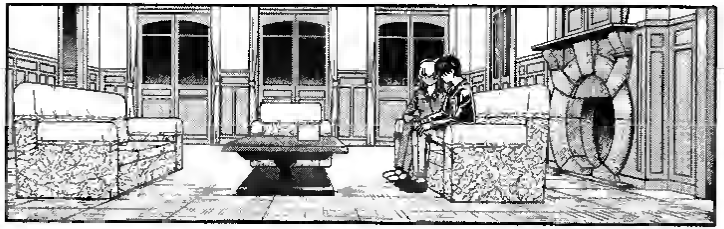
KAORU.

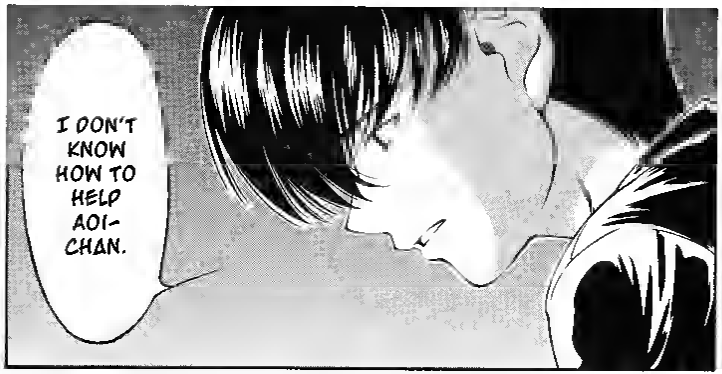

THIS MIGHT STING A LITTLE, SO BRACE YOURSELF

...BUT IF THE KNUCKLES FEEL THE SLIGHTEST BIT OFF, WE'RE GOING RIGHT TO THE DOCTOR.

LUCKILY, I DON'T THINK YOU BROKE ANY BONES.

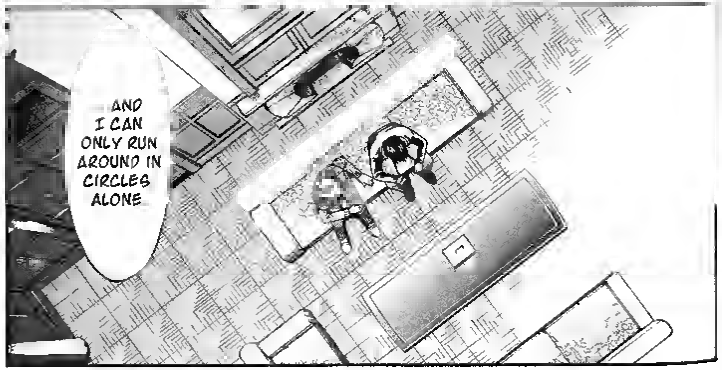

I KNOW YOU'RE FRUSTRATED... WITH YOURSELF



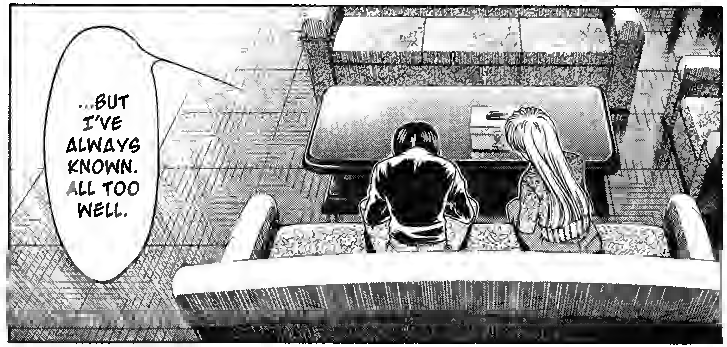

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO HELP AOI-CHAN.

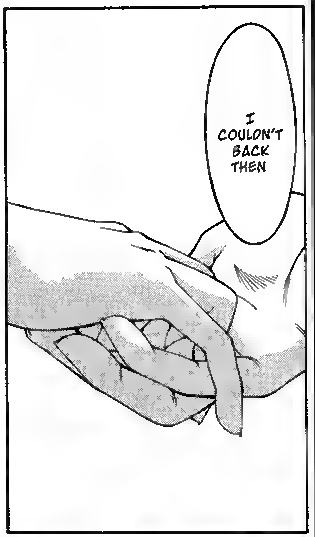
I WANT TO DO SOMETHING
B.B FACTORY
BB/04
I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING

THERE'S A HOLE INSIDE OF ME, GETTING BIGGER AND BIGGER...


AND I CAN ONLY RUN AROUND IN CIRCLES ALONE

I TRIED TO ACT COOL AND PRETEND I WOULD MAKE AOI-CHAN HAPPY...


...BUT I'VE ALWAYS KNOWN. ALL TOO WELL.


I COULDN'T BACK THEN

I CAN'T NOW

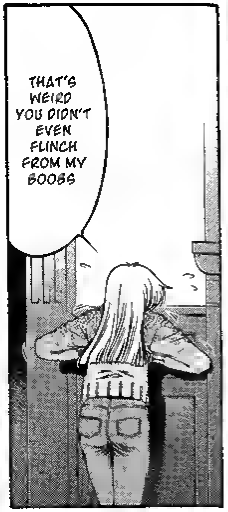
I CAN'T DO ANY-THING BY MYSELF.

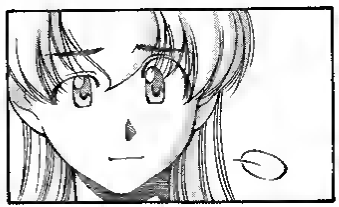
BOOMF

WHOAAA

I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW MUCH YOU CARE FOR LANDLADY-SAN
OOOHHH, MAN, I'M SO JEALOUS!

AH!! THAT'S RIGHT! LANDLADY-SAN'S BOOBS ARE BIGGER THAN MINE
Ah ha ha ha, you got me there!

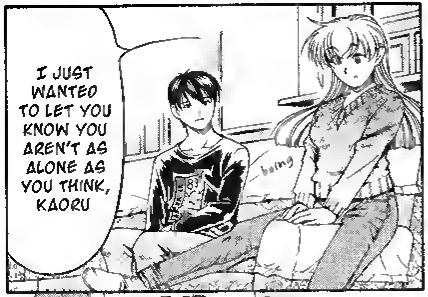

THAT'S WEIRD YOU DIDN'T EVEN FLINCH FROM MY BOOBS



Uhh

SORRY I REALLY DO UNDERSTAND
HOW YOU FEEL, KAORU

TINA?
WE'RE IN THE SAME BOAT, YOU AND I.

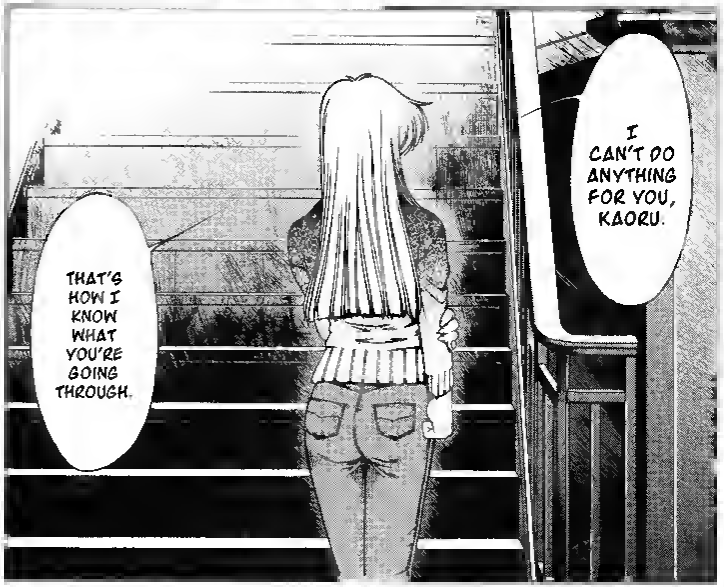

I JUST WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW YOU AREN'T AS ALONE AS YOU THINK, KAORU

I'M JUST THINKING OUT LOUD IGNORE ME
DON'T LOOK SO FREAKED!

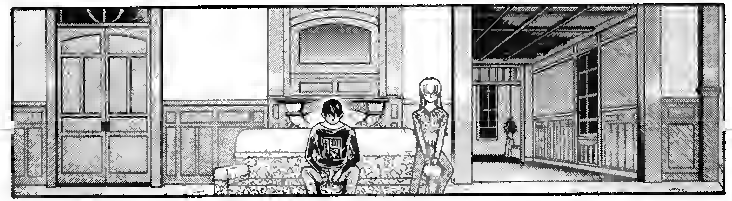
SO, YOU KNOW... IT'S OKAY, KAORU.

...AND THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO STOP HER SUFFERING

THE PERSON YOU LOVE MORE THAN ANYTHING IS HURTING...


THAT'S HOW I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GOING THROUGH.
I CAN'T DO ANYTHING FOR YOU, KAORU.

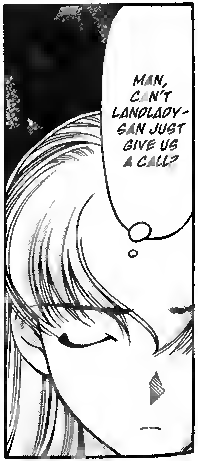
.....

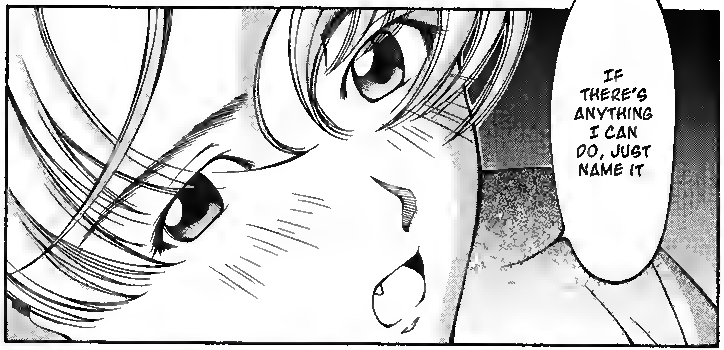


.....
BUT IF THIS KEEPS UP, IT MIGHT CLEAR THE WAY FOR ME ...

KAORU IS MISERABLE.

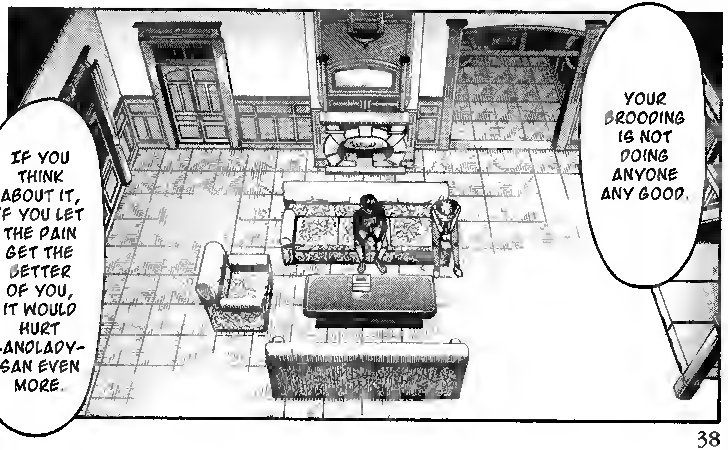
HE'S HURTING SO MUCH.

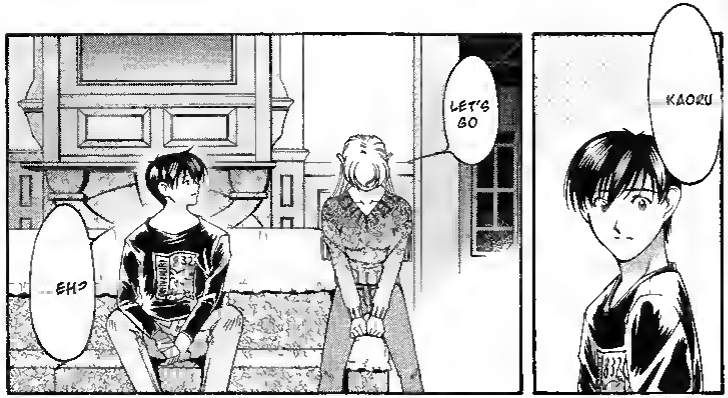

MAN, C..N'T LANDLADY-SAN JUST GIVE US A CALL?

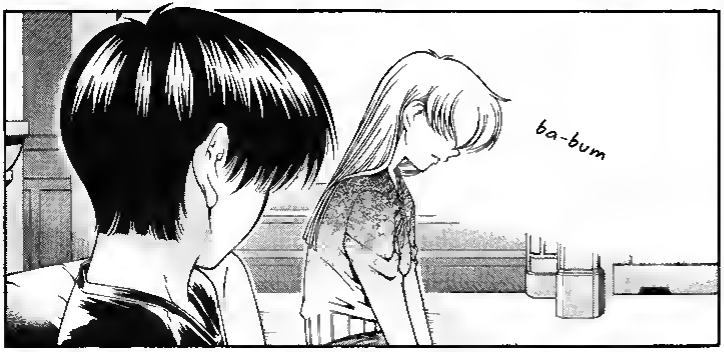

IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO, JUST NAME IT

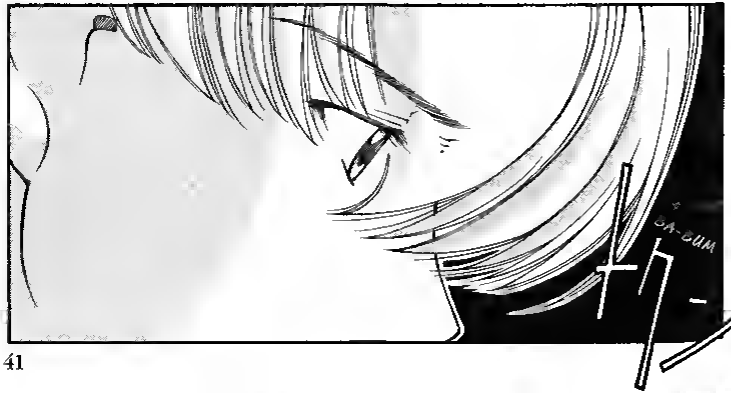
EVEN JUST BEING ABLE TO BANDAGE YOUR HAND WAS SOMETHING.

I'D BE HAPPY TO MAKE A USEFUL CONTRIBUTION, NO MATTER HOW SMALL.

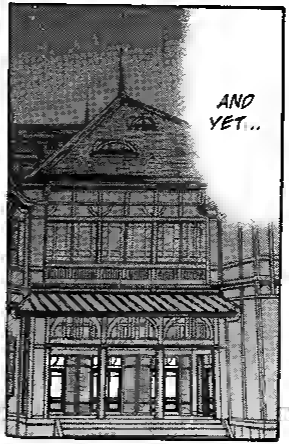

YOUR BROODING IS NOT DOING ANYONE ANY GOOD.
IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, IF YOU LET THE PAIN GET THE BETTER OF YOU, IT WOULD HURT LANDLADY-SAN EVEN MORE.


KAORU
LET'S GO
...EH?


ba-bum


BA-BUM

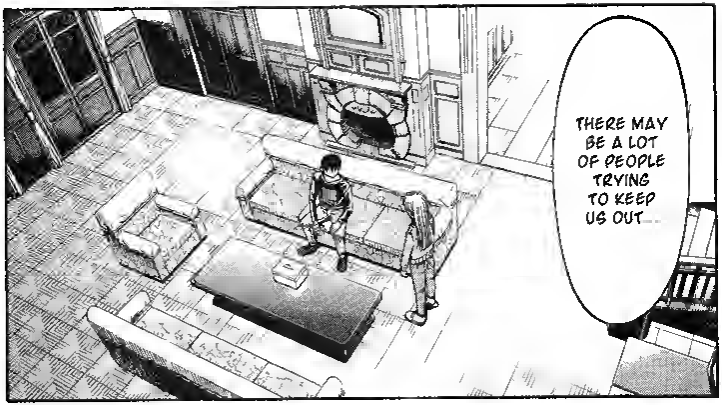
...I COULD BE WITH KAORU AND TAKE SOME OF THE ACHE AWAY.


AND YET..

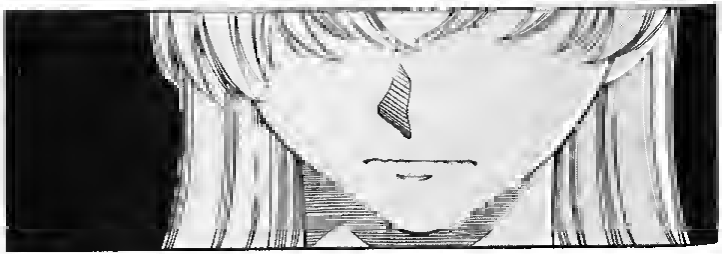
I SUPPOSE IT'S TOO MUCH TO HOPE FOR

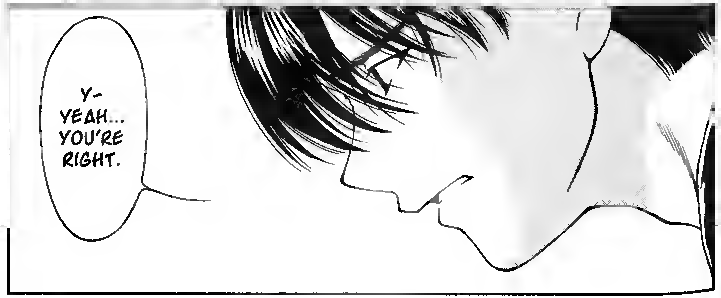
C'MON!!
LET'S PAY LANDLADY-SAN A VISIT!

WHY SIT AROUND DOING NOTHING WHEN WE CAN GO SEE HER?


THERE MAY BE A LOT OF PEOPLE TRYING TO KEEP US OUT...

...AND EVEN IF YOU DO SEE HER, IT MIGHT NOT ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING...
832



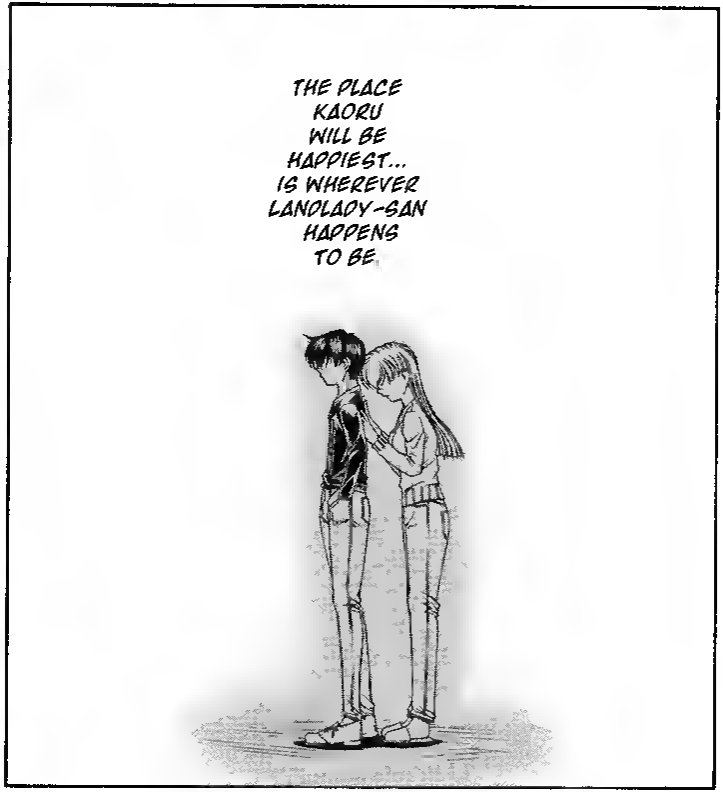

Y-
YEAH...
YOU'RE
RIGHT.

...BUT YOU
HAVE TO
TRY, KAORU
YOU SHOULD
BE BY
LANDLADY-
SAN'S SIDE

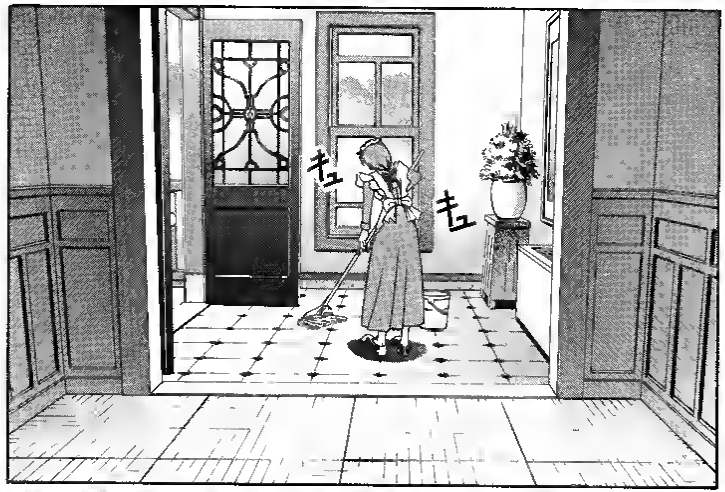
藍より青し

AI YORI AOSHI

Chapter 129: Utakata—Transience



End of Chapter 128: Souji—Resemblance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キュ

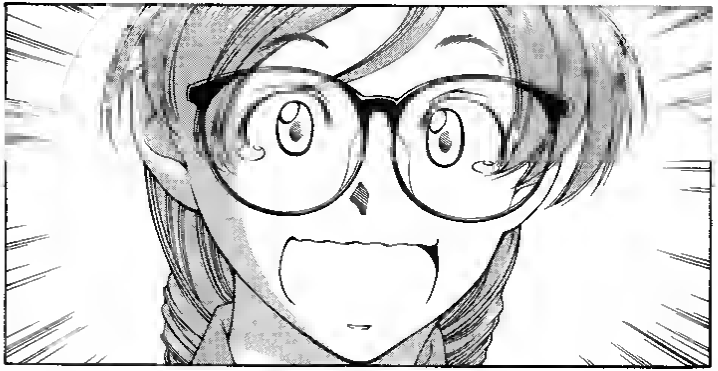
CLANK

Sigh.

AAAHH!!
SPLASH

OHHH, NOW I'VE DONE IT!

CLACK

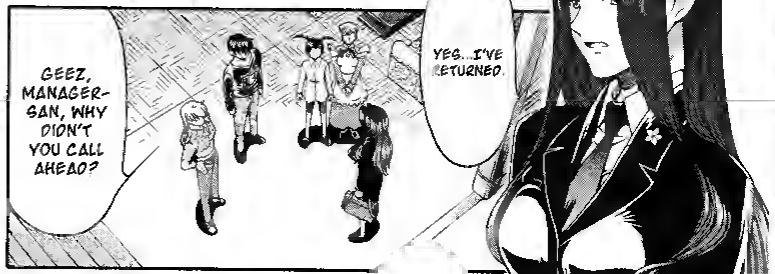


.....

THERE IS SOMETHING I NEED TO TELL ALL OF YOU...

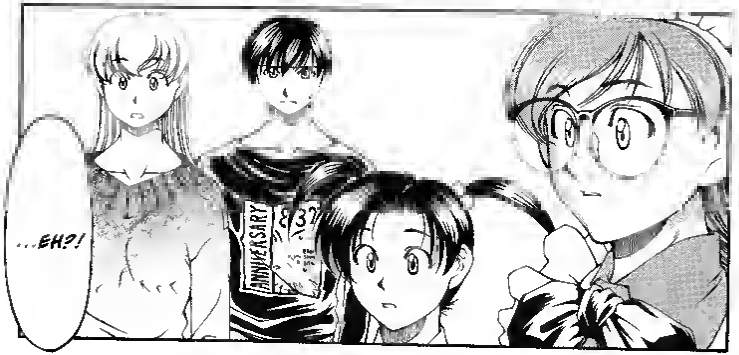
WELCOME BACK, MIYABI-ONEECHAN!
MIYABI-SAN!

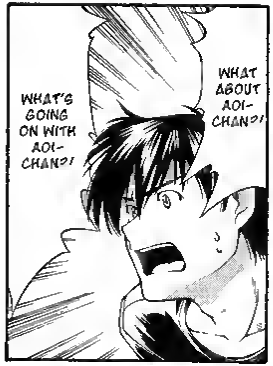
MIYABI-SAN IS HOME!!


GEEZ, MANAGER-SAN, WHY DIDN'T YOU CALL AHEAD?
YES...I'VE RETURNED.

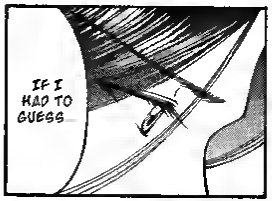
AND WHERE'S LANDLADY-SAN? SHE CAME BACK WITH YOU, DIDN'T SHE?
UM... ABOUT THAT.

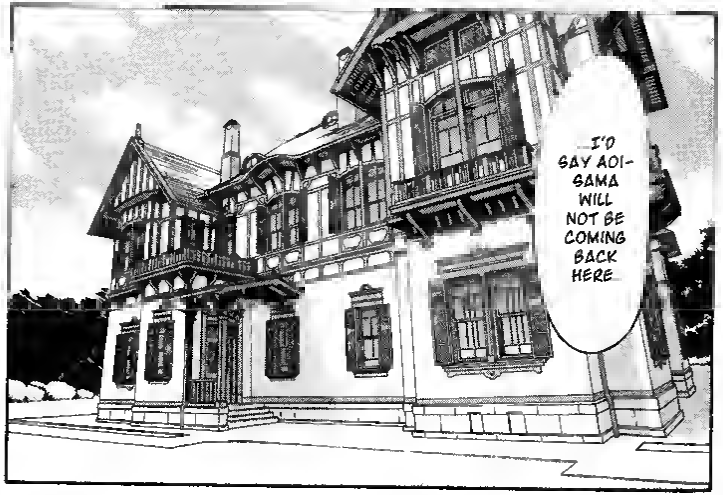
I KNOW THIS IS SUDDEN, BUT AS OF TOMORROW, THIS MANOR WILL BE CLOSED.

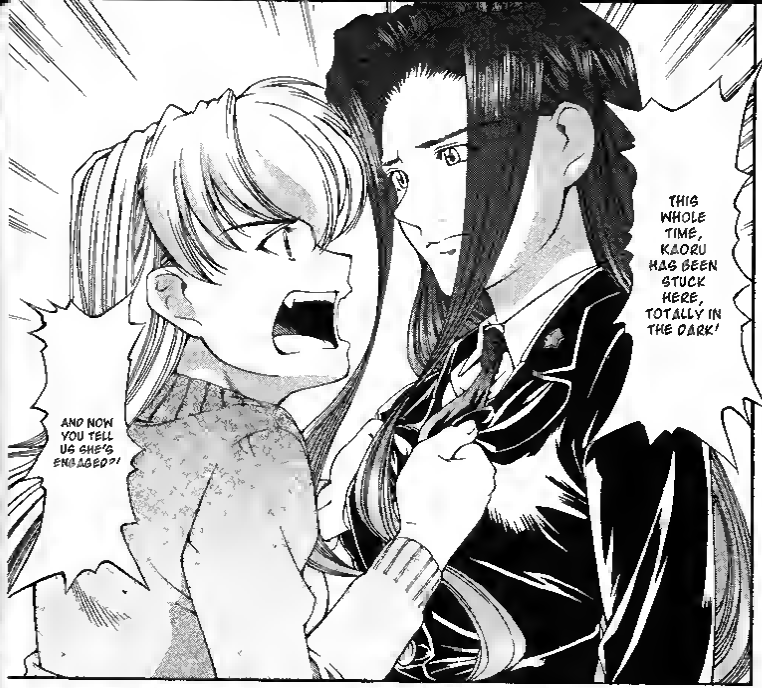

...EH?!
ANNIVERSARY

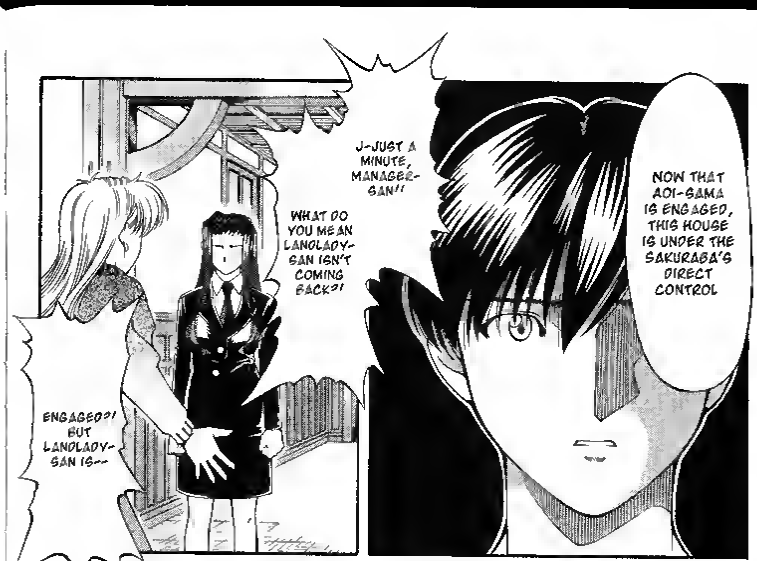

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH AOI-CHAN?!
WHAT ABOUT AOI-CHAN?!

I AM TRULY SORRY FOR THE LACK OF WARNING, BUT PLEASE SPEND TONIGHT MAKING YOUR INDIVIDUAL PREPARATIONS TO LEAVE


IF I HAD TO GUESS


...I'D SAY AOI-SAMA WILL NOT BE COMING BACK HERE

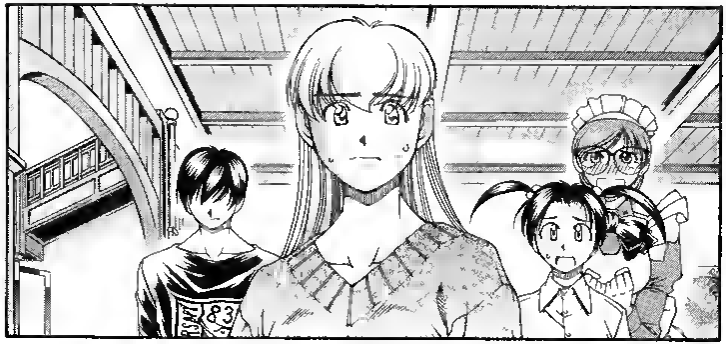

THIS WHOLE TIME, KAORU HAS BEEN STUCK HERE, TOTALLY IN THE DARK!
AND NOW YOU TELL US SHE'S ENGAGED?!

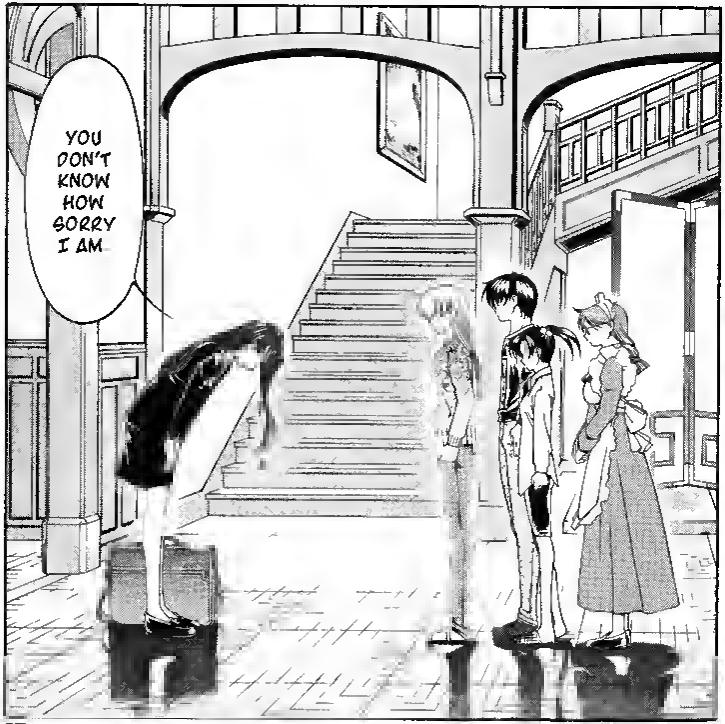

NOW THAT AOI-SAMA IS ENGAGED, THIS HOUSE IS UNDER THE SAKURABA'S DIRECT CONTROL
J-JUST A MINUTE, MANAGER-SAN!!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN LANDLADY-SAN ISN'T COMING BACK?!
ENGAGED?! BUT LANDLADY-SAN IS--

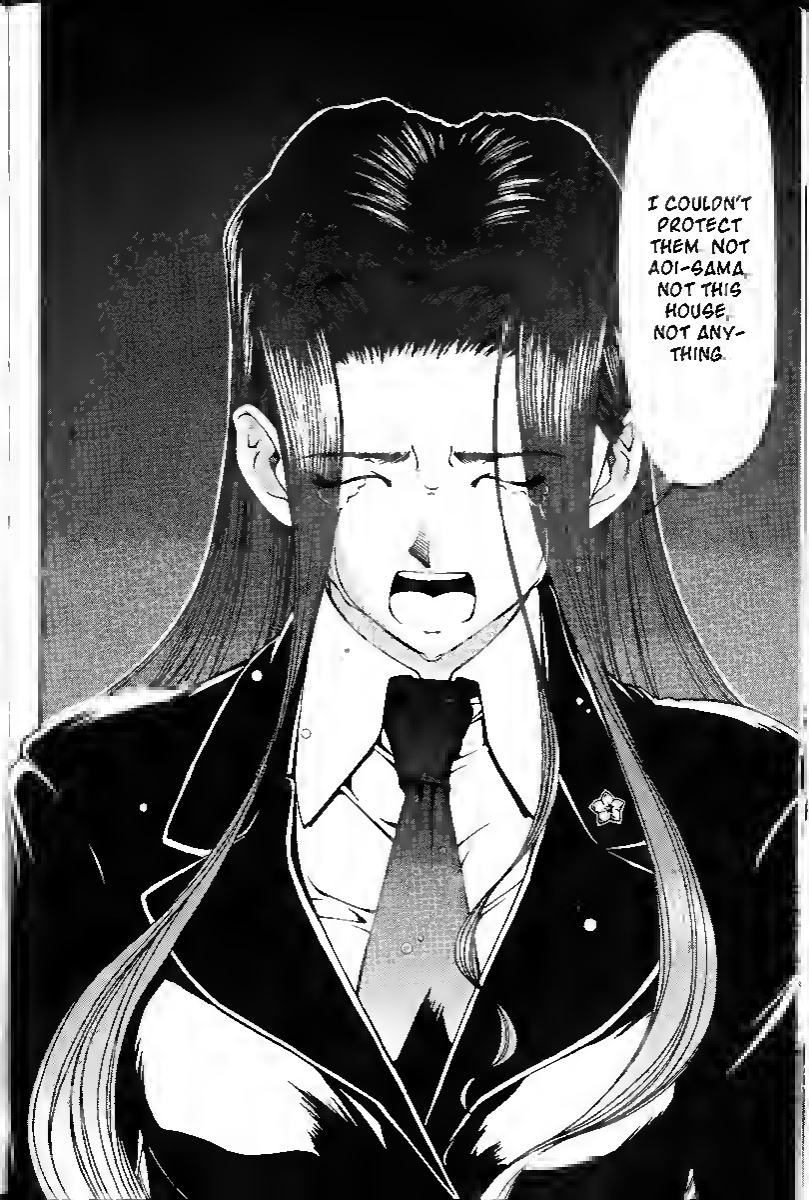
HOW DO YOU THINK KAORU HAS FELT, TRAPPED HERE WAITING FOR LANDLADY-SAN?!

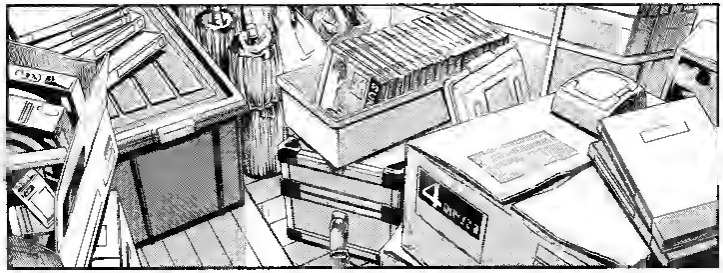
I...I'M SORRY

ONII-CHAN
SENPAI WAS?




YOU DON'T KNOW HOW SORRY I AM.


I COULDN'T PROTECT THEM. NOT AOI-SAMA, NOT THIS HOUSE, NOT ANY-THING.



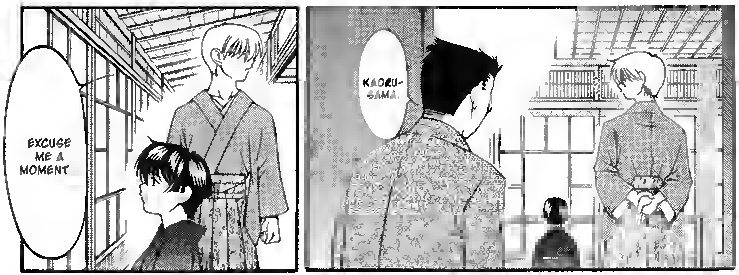
MIYABI-SAN, DO YOU HAVE A MINUTE?

KAORU-DONO...?

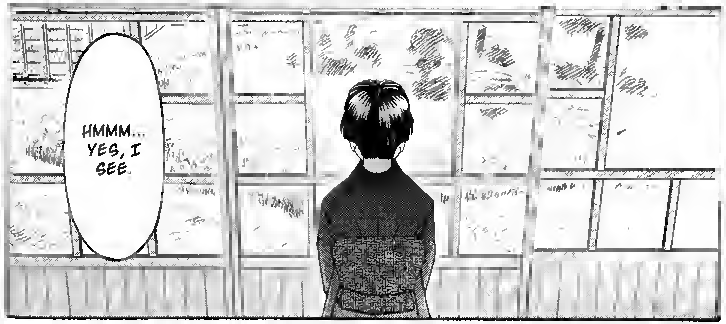
I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU, ACTUALLY.
AND SOMETHING I MUST ASK YOU.

AH, HERE YOU ARE, AOI-SAN

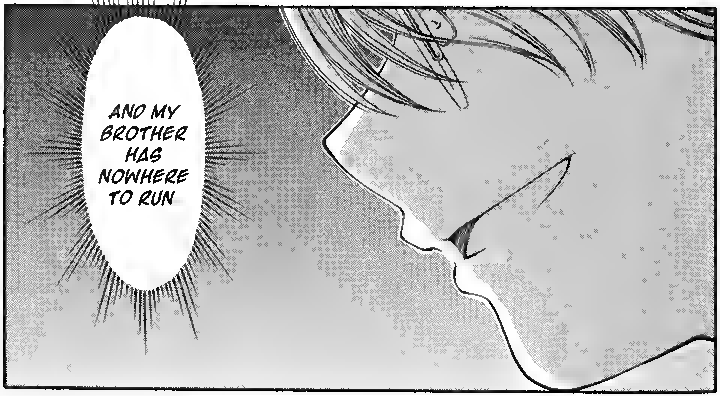
HOW WOULD YOU FEEL ABOUT A WALK IN THE GARDEN? I CAN SHOW YOU THE ESTATE
IT'S A LOVELY DAY TODAY, ISN'T IT?

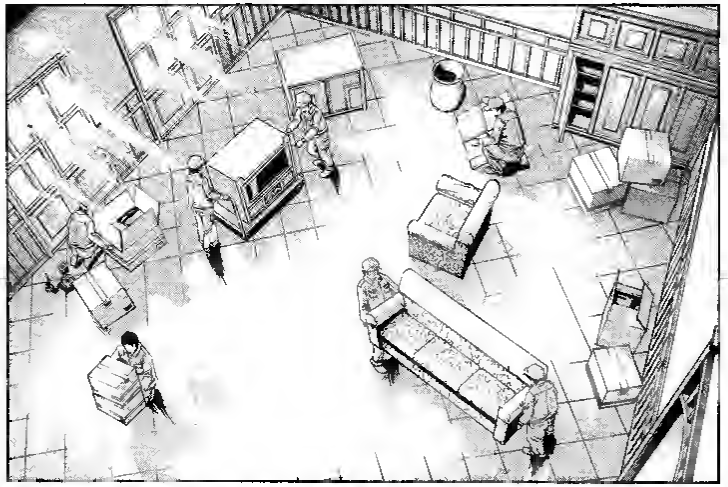

EXCUSE ME A MOMENT
KAORU-SAMA

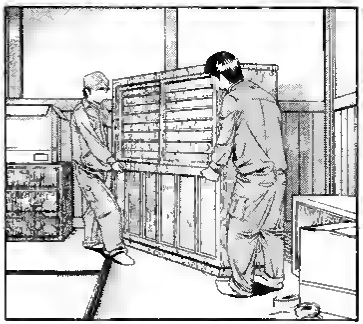
MIYABI HAS SERVED THE EVICTION NOTICE. THEY'RE STARTING TO CLEAR OUT

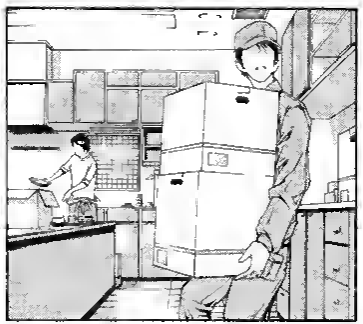

HMMM... YES, I SEE.

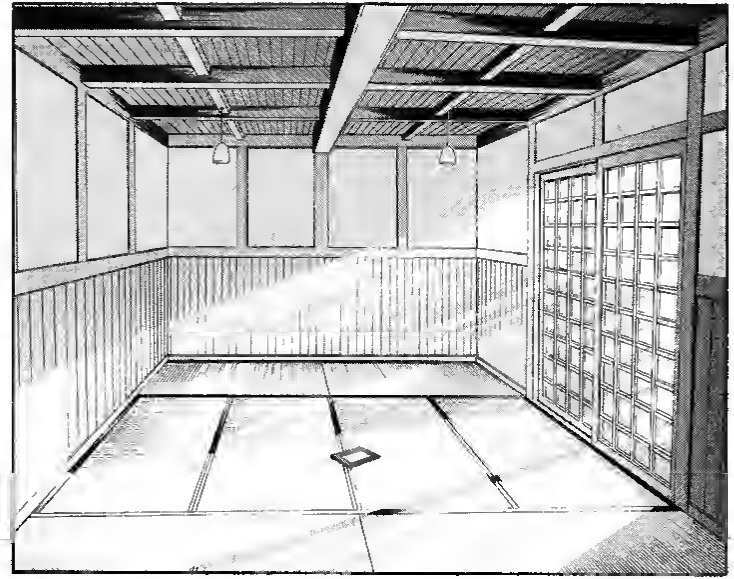
AOI SAKURABA, THERE'S NOTHING LEFT FOR YOU TO GO BACK TO.

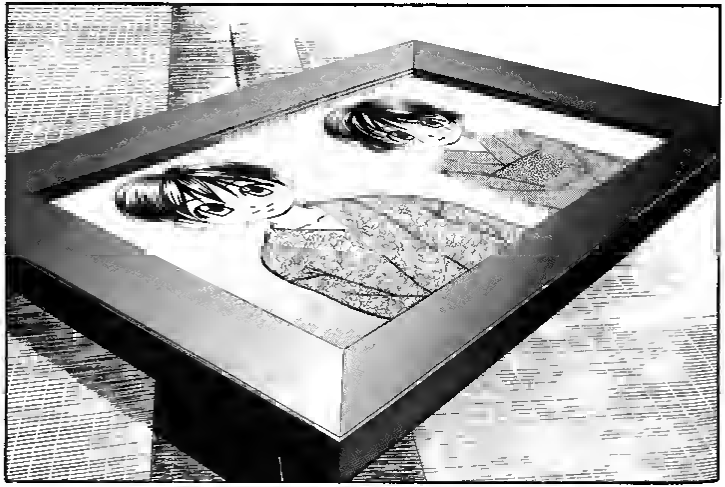

AND MY BROTHER HAS NOWHERE TO RUN



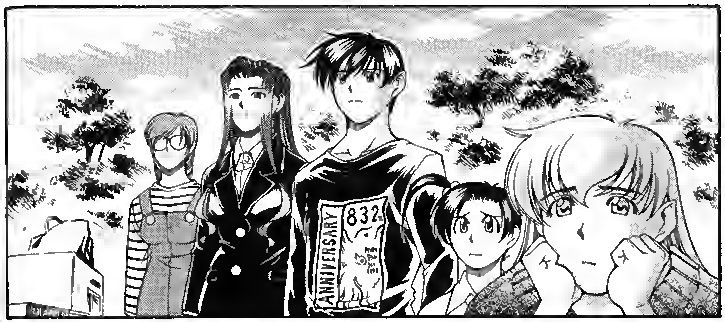




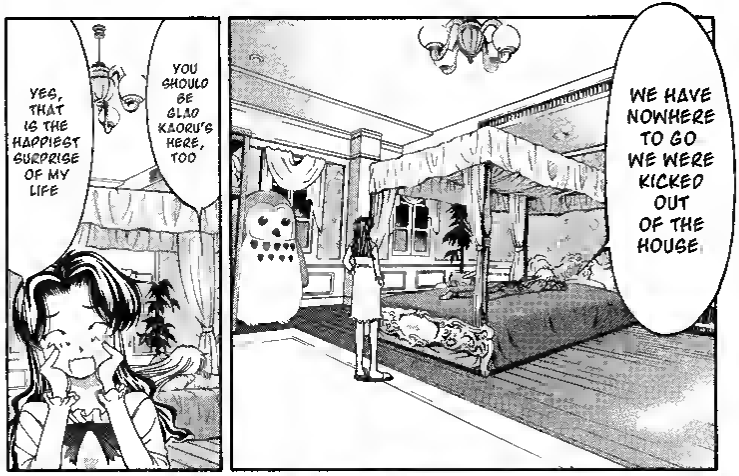


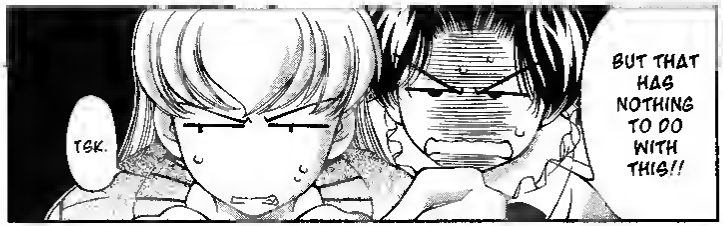


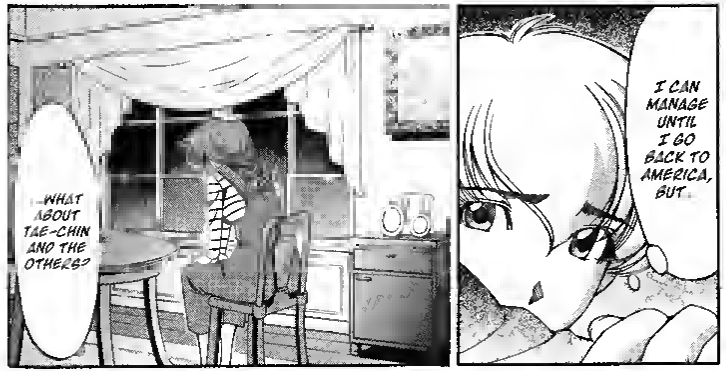
Chapter 130: Shitsuren—Lost Love



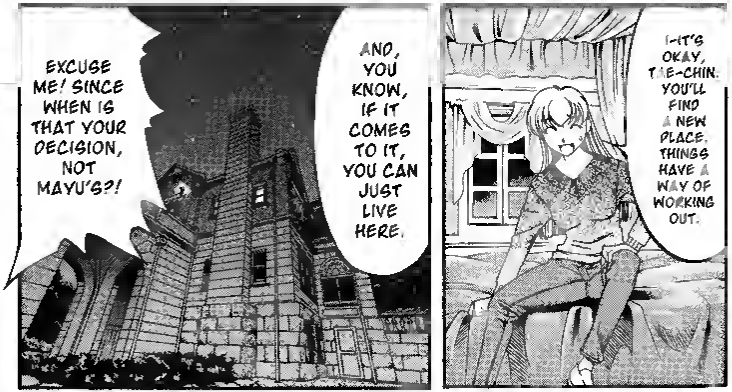
End of Chapter 129: Utakata—Transience

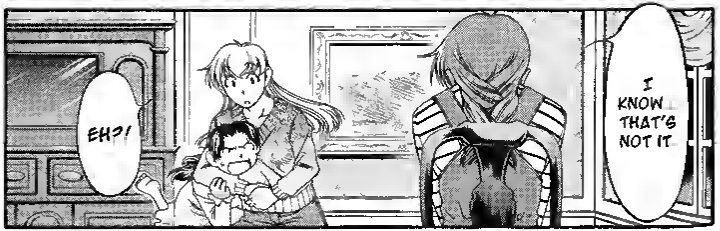

WE HAVE NOWHERE TO GO WE WERE KICKED OUT OF THE HOUSE.
YOU SHOULD BE GLAD KAORU'S HERE, TOO
YES, THAT IS THE HAPPIEST SURPRISE OF MY LIFE

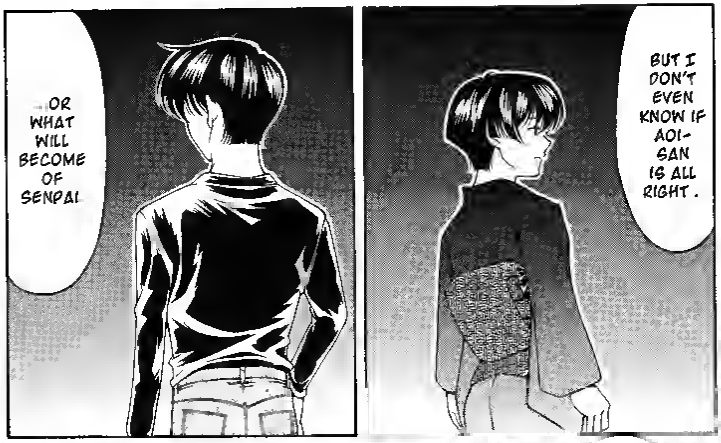

BUT THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS!!
TSK.

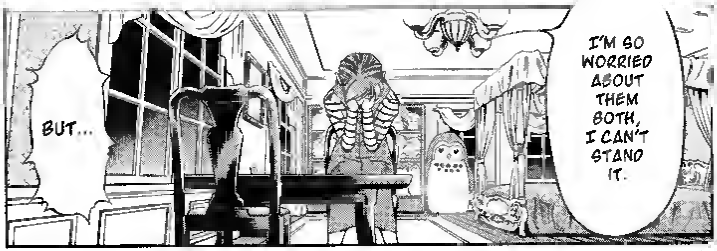

I CAN MANAGE UNTIL I GO BACK TO AMERICA, BUT...
...WHAT ABOUT TAE-CHIN AND THE OTHERS?

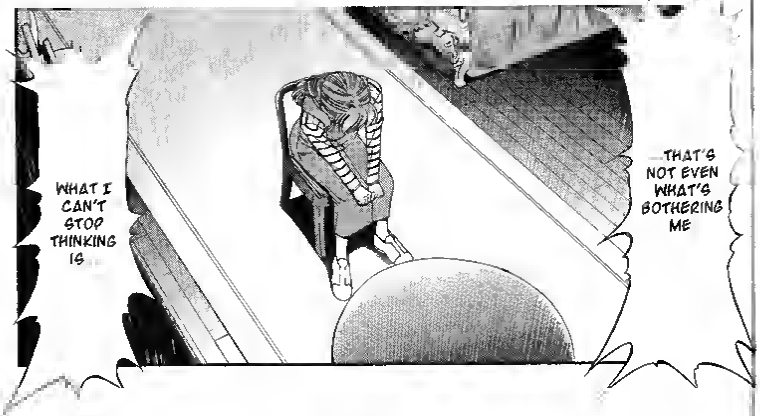
グス
SNIFF...


EXCUSE ME! SINCE WHEN IS THAT YOUR DECISION, NOT MAYU'S?!
AND, YOU KNOW, IF IT COMES TO IT, YOU CAN JUST LIVE HERE.
I-IT'S OKAY, TAE-CHIN. YOU'LL FIND A NEW PLACE. THINGS HAVE A WAY OF WORKING OUT.

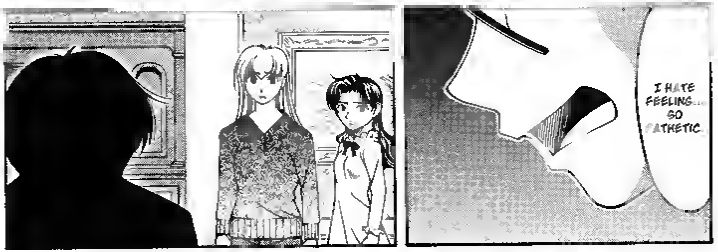

EH?!
I KNOW... THAT'S NOT IT.

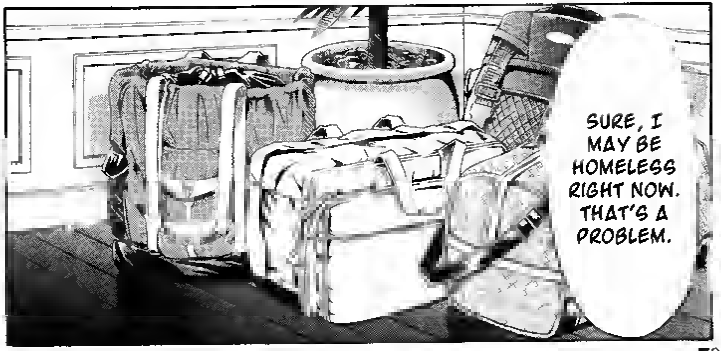

...OR WHAT WILL BECOME OF SENPAI
BUT I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF AOI-SAN IS ALL RIGHT.


BUT...
I'M SO WORRIED ABOUT THEM BOTH, I CAN'T STAND IT.

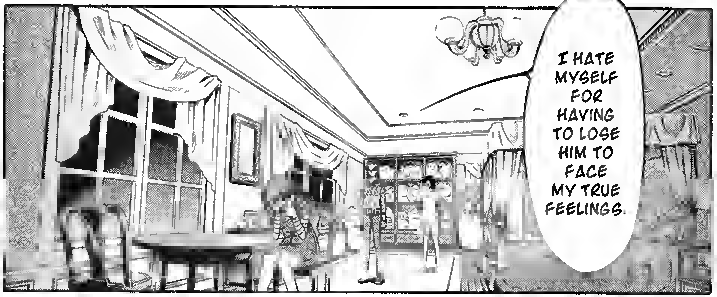

WHAT I CAN'T STOP THINKING IS...
...THAT'S NOT EVEN WHAT'S BOTHERING ME

I...
I REALLY AM A GOOD-FOR-NOTHING!


I HATE FEELING... SO PATHETIC

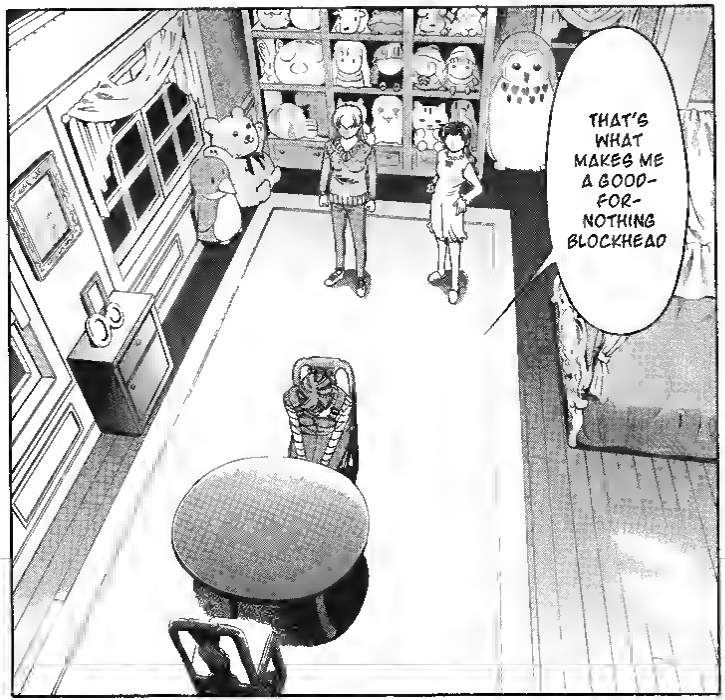

SURE, I MAY BE HOMELESS RIGHT NOW. THAT'S A PROBLEM.

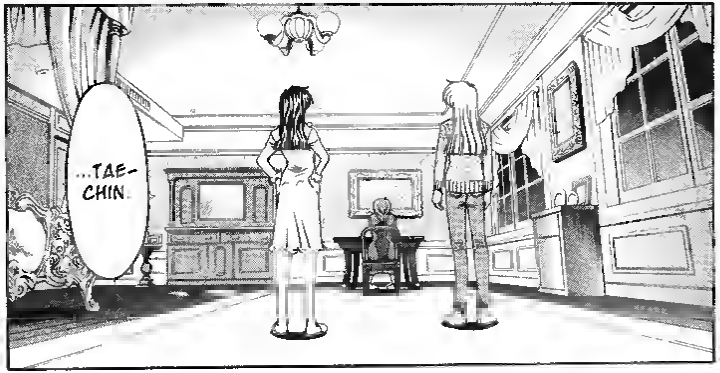
I THOUGHT I JUST ADMIRED HIM, THAT'S ALL.
HOW WAS I SO BLIND TO HOW MUCH I LOVED HIM?


I HATE MYSELF FOR HAVING TO LOSE HIM TO FACE MY TRUE FEELINGS.

I'M SO PATHETIC! IT'S SELFISH TO THINK ONLY OF MYSELF AT A TIME LIKE THIS

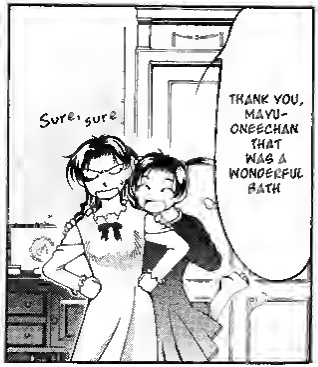
...I'VE LOST THE GREATEST LOVE OF MY LIFE!

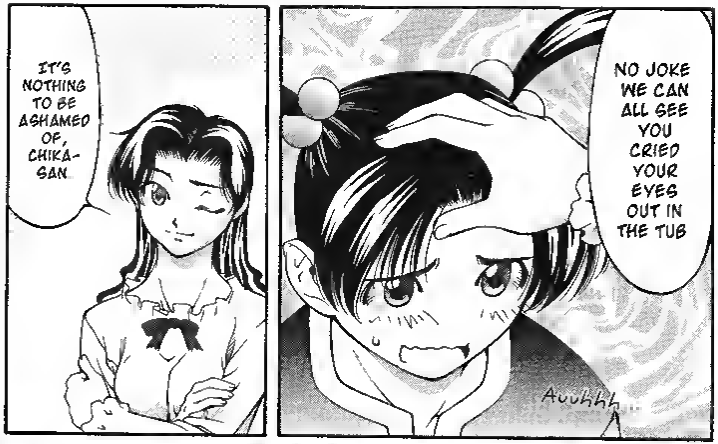

THAT'S WHAT MAKES ME A GOOD-FOR-NOTHING BLOCKHEAD

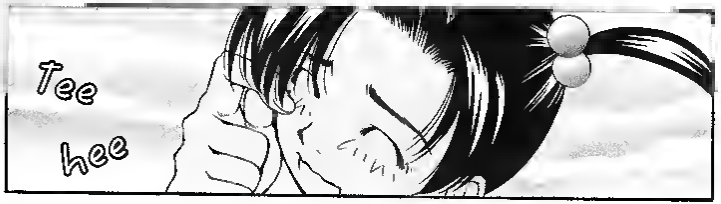

...TAE-CHIN.

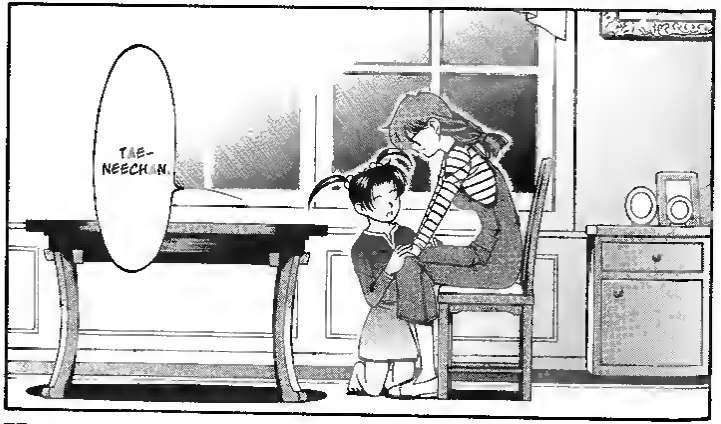
AAAAAAHHH, THAT FELT GOOD...!

I DO MISS THE BIG BATH WE HAD BEFORE, THOUGH.


THANK YOU, MAYU-ONEECHAN THAT WAS A WONDERFUL BATH
Sure, sure


IT'S NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF, CHIKA-CHAN.
NO JOKE WE CAN ALL SEE YOU CRIED YOUR EYES OUT IN THE TUB
AUUHHH...

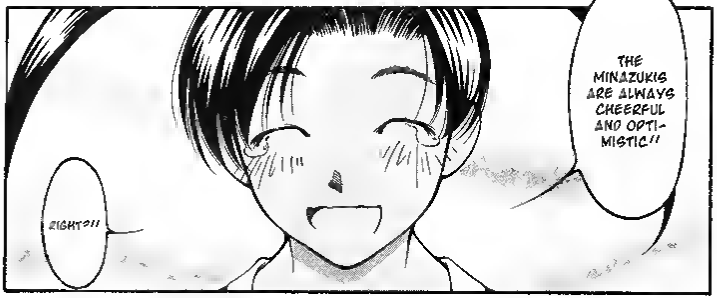

Tee hee

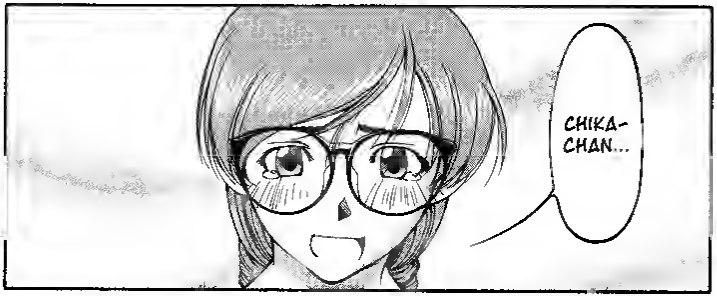

TAE-NEECHAN.

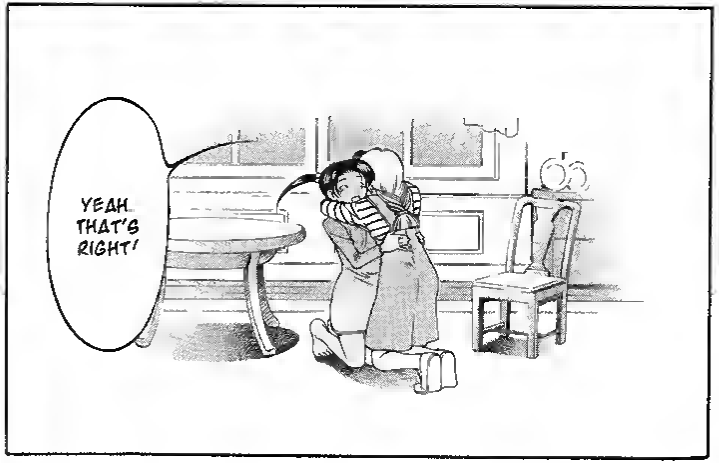
NICE TRY, BUT IT'S OBVIOUS YOU'RE FAKING

THAT'S ONE OF CHIKA'S BEST QUALITIES!!
YOU DON'T LET ANYTHING SLOW YOU DOWN, DO YOU, CHIKA-CHAN?

WITH YOUR EYES THAT RED, YOU'RE NOT FOOLING ANYONE.
EEHH?!! NO WAY, NO WAAAY!!
AH
WAH
WAH!


THE MINAZUKIS ARE ALWAYS CHEERFUL AND OPTIMISTIC!!
RIGHT?!!

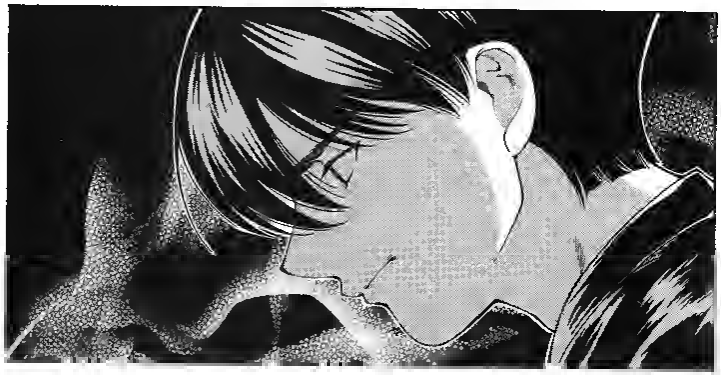

CHIKA-CHAN...

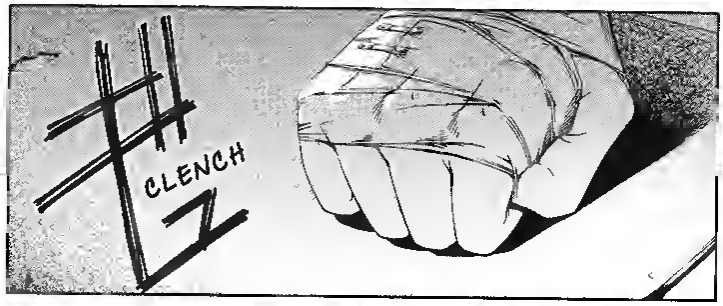

YEAH. THAT'S RIGHT!

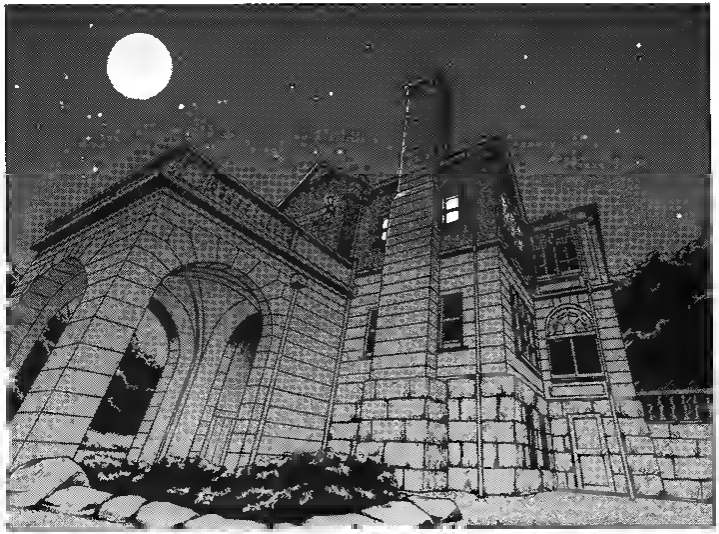
YOU KNOW CHIKA REALLY LOVES ONII-CHAN, RIGHT?

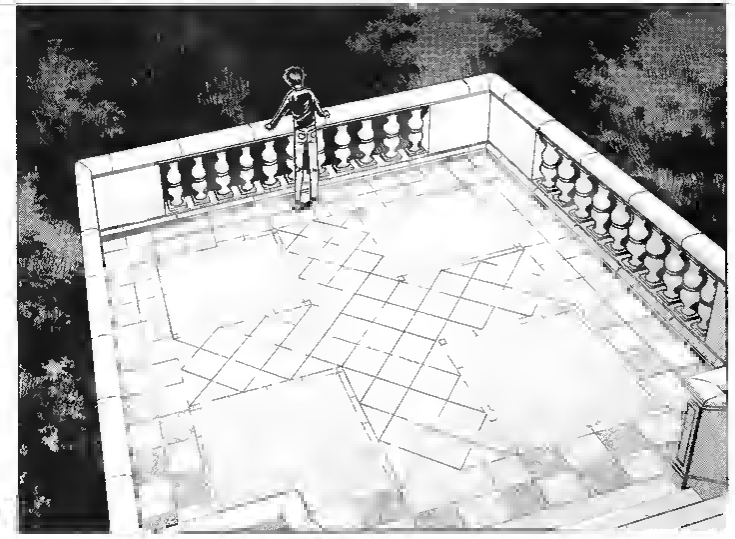
YOU WILL TOO, WON'T YOU, TAE-NEECHAN?

IT'S ALWAYS BEEN THAT WAY, AND I THINK I'LL KEEP LOVING ONII-CHAN FOREVER AND EVER.




#2
CLENCH





FIRST, ABOUT AOI-SAMA'S BETROTHAL

THE NAME OF AOI-SAMA'S FIANCÉ...

HANA-BIGHI
DAMN THE HANA-BIGHI
832

I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU. ACTUALLY
AND SOMETHING I MUST ASK YOU.

...IS KAORU HANABISHI.

AND THE OTHER THING...

...THE THING I MUST ASK YOU.

藍より青し

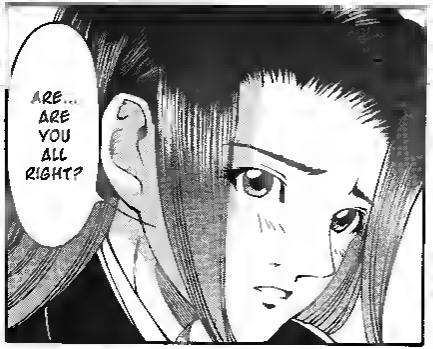
AI YORI AOSHI

Chapter 131: Houteki—Abandonment

End of Chapter 130: Shitsuren—Lost Love

KAORU-DONO
MIYABI-SAN
832
ANNIVERSARY

KAORU-DONO, DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU HAVE A YOUNGER BROTHER?


ARE... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

GLANCE
832
ANNIVERSARY

IS THAT WHY THE HANABISHI LEFT ME ALONE?

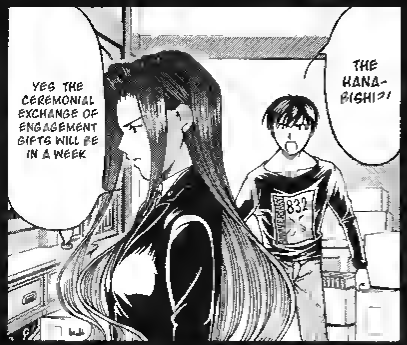
CLENCH

YES. I KNOW YOU NEEDED TO KNOW, BUT IT'S STILL DELICATE.
HM?! YOU MEAN ABOUT YESTER-DAY?

CLACK

TO BE HONEST, IT REALLY THREW ME FOR A LOOP.
I NEVER IMAGINED I HAD A BROTHER.
BUT MORE THAN THAT THE IDEA OF MY FATHER DOING SOMETHING LIKE THAT AND THE HANABISHI I
WHERE'S AOI-CHAN?! WHAT'S GOING ON?

I HAVEN'T SEEN AOI-SAMA SINCE I LEFT HERE, TO BE HONEST
FROM WHAT I CAN TELL, SHE NEVER EVEN RETURNED TO THE SAKURABA


THE HANA-BISHI?!
YES. THE CEREMONIAL EXCHANGE OF ENGAGEMENT GIFTS WILL BE IN A WEEK

IT WOULD SEEM THAT AOI-SAMA WAS LURED IN BY PART OF THE SAKURABA
AND IS NOW BEING HELD BY THE HANABISHI

ONE WEEK...

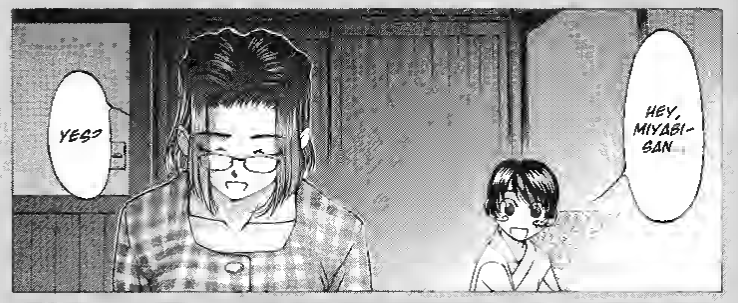
PLEASE, KAORU-DONO-- WAIT!!
WHY?! WHY SHOULD I?!
WHILE WE'RE HERE TALKING, AOI-CHAN IS--
PLEASE RESTRAIN YOURSELF.
IF YOU REACT THIS WAY, KAORU-DONO, THEY'LL TAKE AOI-SAMA AWAY FROM US FOR GOOD, AND THEN WHAT?!
GRRRRR
DART
NO!!

KA... ORU... OONO.
MIYABI-SAN?!
MIYABI-SAN!!
SWOON
MIYABI-SAN?!

THE ONLY SURE CLUE WE HAVE OF HOW TO FIND AOI-SAMA IS THAT PARTY

I'M... I'M BEGGING YOU.

THEY THREW ME OUT OF THE SAKURABA
THIS INFOR-MATION... IT'S ALL I HAVE TO GIVE


HEY, MIYABI-SAN
YES?

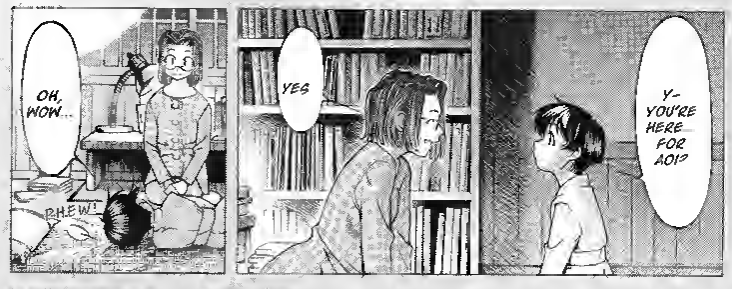
WHY DID YOU COME TO THE SAKURABA, MIYABI-SAN?

TOOK YOU IN?
THE SAKURABA TOOK ME IN.
GOOD QUESTION.

M-MIYABI-SAN, ARE YOU AWAKE?
IS SOMETHING THE MATTER, AOI-SAMA?
UM... C-N I STAY WITH YOU A LITTLE WHILE?

BOING
SURE. YOU CAN SLEEP IN HERE TONIGHT.
YAAAAAAY!!

FIDGET
DID YOU HAVE ANOTHER SCARY DREAM?
FIDGET


OH, WOW...
P.H.E.W!
YES
Y-YOU'RE HERE FOR AOI?

SO THAT'S WHY...!
...AOI-SAMA

HMM... LET'S SEE

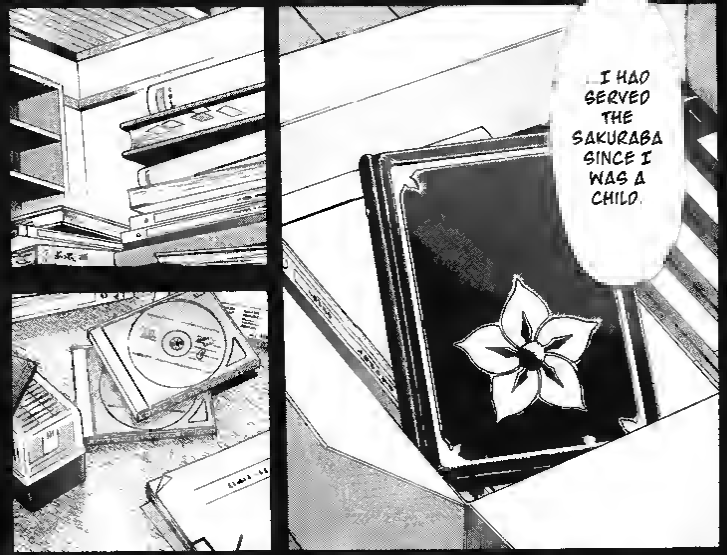
I'M SORRY LET ME TRY AGAIN

I CAN MAKE SURE YOU'LL SMILE FOREVER AND EVER, AOI-SAMA

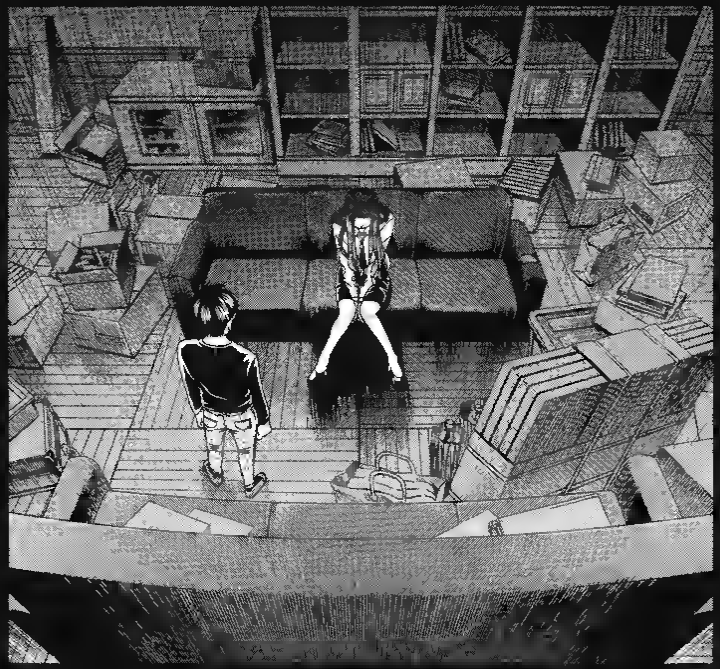
I AM WITH THE SAKURABA SO THAT, IN THE FUTURE...

AOI-SAMA...
OH, MY... DID I...?
MIYABI-SAN, YOU'RE AWAKE!

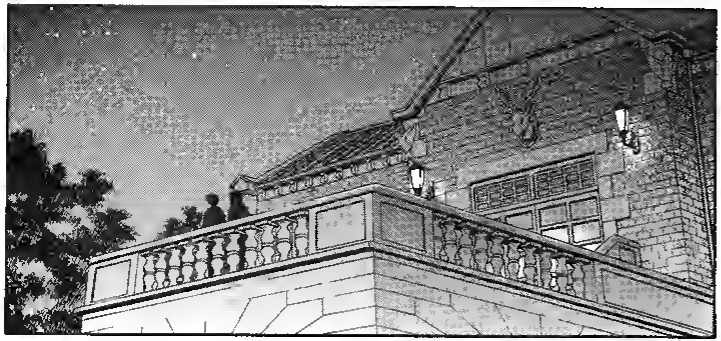
MIYABI-SAN, WAS IT MY FAULT THE SAKURABA—
YES, I'M SORRY.
YOU MUST BE OVERDOING IT TO PASS OUT LIKE THAT. ARE YOU OKAY?
NO. IT'S BECAUSE I OPPOSED THE SAKURABA OF MY OWN FREE WILL
HOW-EVER...


...I HAD SERVED THE SAKURABA SINCE I WAS A CHILD.

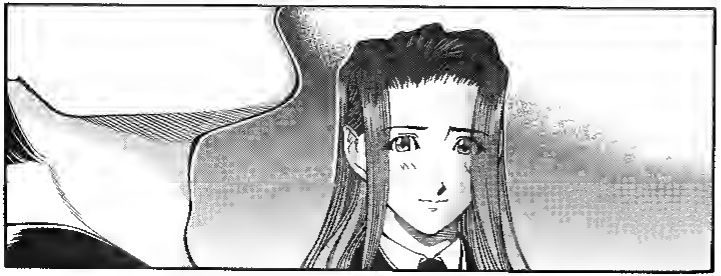
TO ME, THE SAKURABA ARE... AOI-SAMA IS....



KAORU-DONO... JUST A LITTLE...
MIYABI-SAN...



MIYABI-SAN, I'M GOING TO SAVE AOI-CHAN NO MATTER WHAT

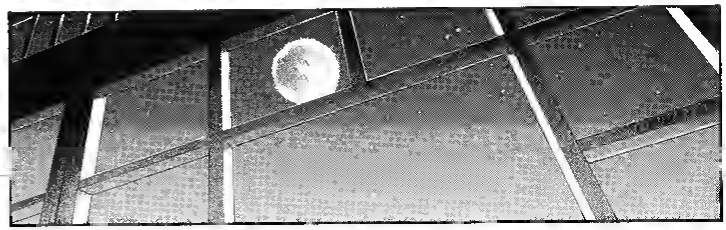


SOB
OHHH...
SOB
SOB
SOB

藍より青し

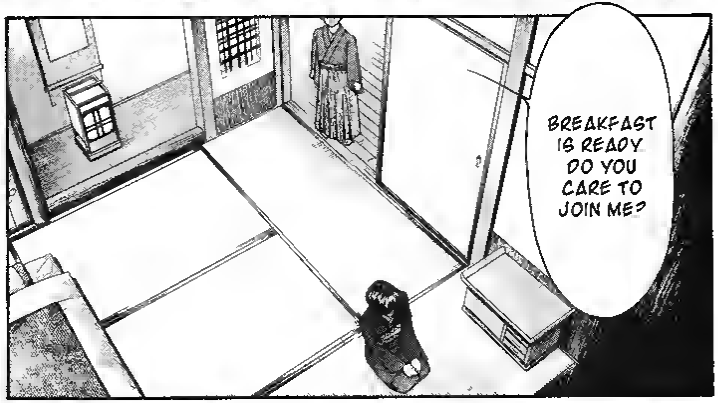
AI YORI AOSHI

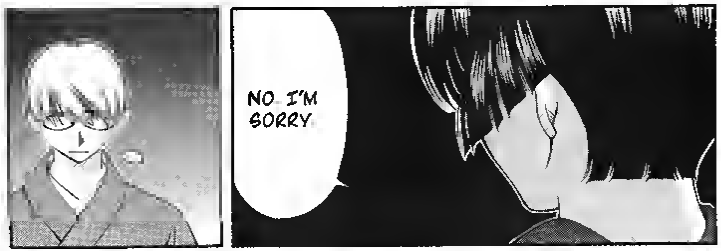
Chapter 132: Tsuikai—Remembrance



End of Chapter 131: Houteki—Abandonment

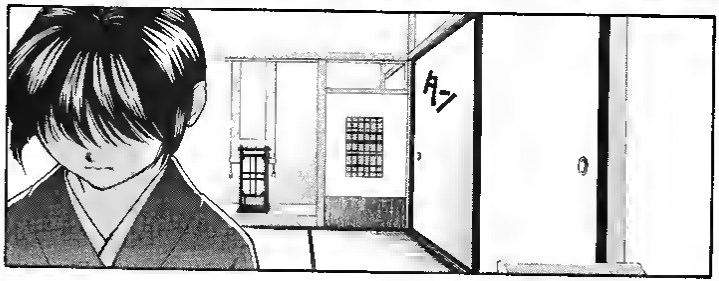
GOOD MORNING, AOI-SAN

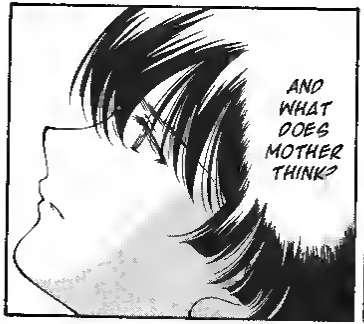

BREAKFAST IS READY DO YOU CARE TO JOIN ME?

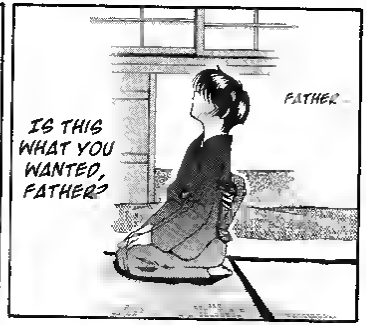

NO. I'M SORRY.

IF YOU WERE TO BECOME ILL
I WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO FACE YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER

I UNDER-STAND I'LL HAVE YOURS BROUGHT UP
I DO HOPE YOU'RE EATING ENOUGH

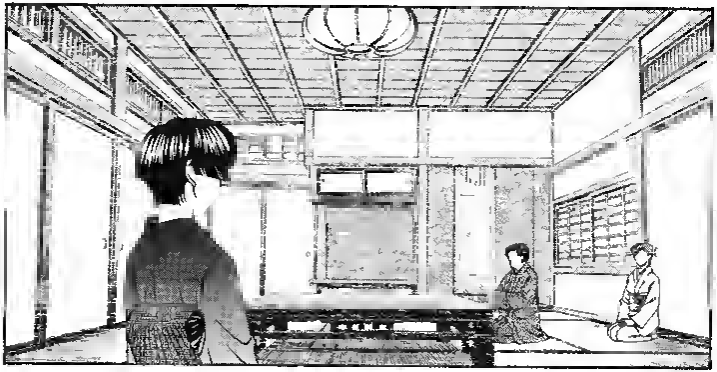

ガラ

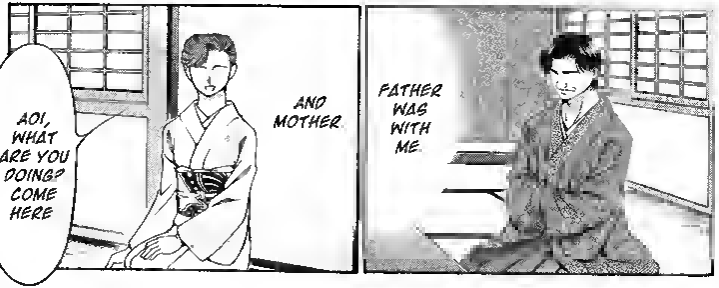

AND WHAT DOES MOTHER THINK?


FATHER...
IS THIS WHAT YOU WANTED, FATHER?

...HERE BEFORE. A LONG, LONG TIME AGO.
I'VE BEEN...

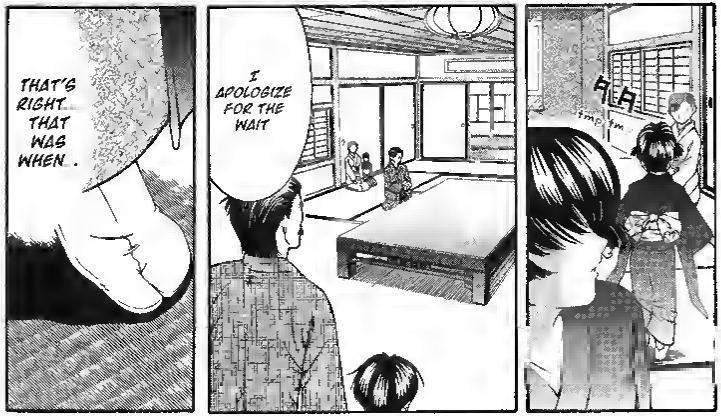
WOULD EVERYONE BE HAPPY IF I JUST GAVE IN AND ACCEPTED THIS?



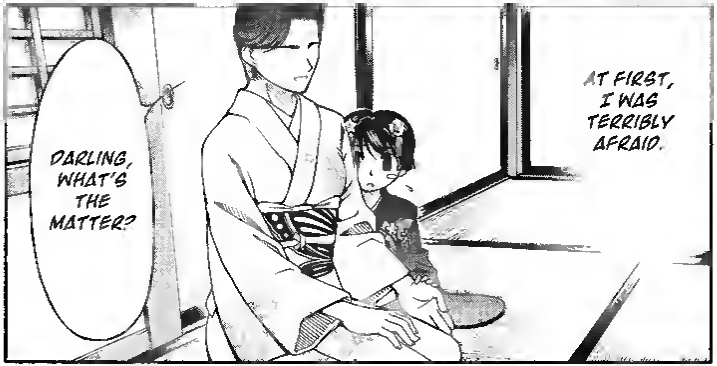

AOI, WHAT ARE YOU DOING? COME HERE
AND MOTHER.
FATHER WAS WITH ME.

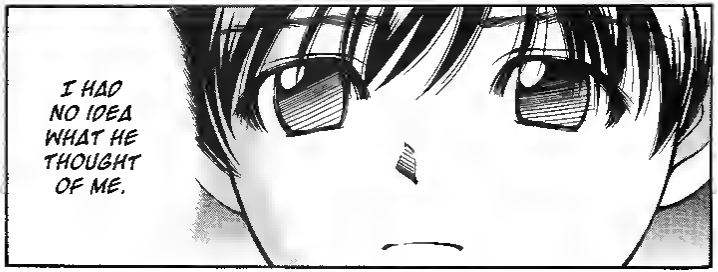
Ahhh...

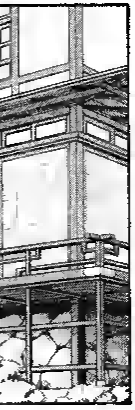
YES, MOTHER.

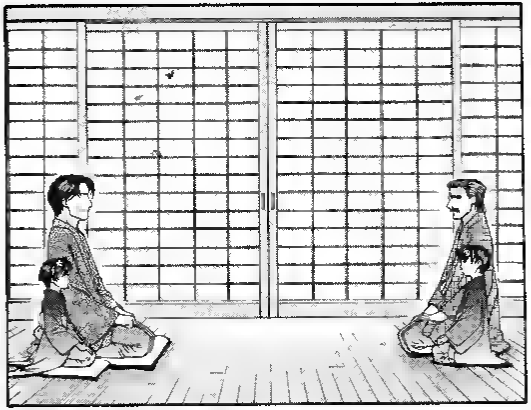

THAT'S RIGHT. THAT WAS WHEN.
I APOLOGIZE FOR THE WAIT
AH

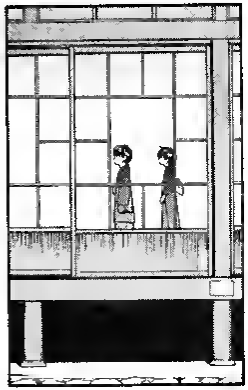
...I FIRST MET KAORU-SAMA


AT FIRST, I WAS TERRIBLY AFRAID.
DARLING, WHAT'S THE MATTER?


I HAD NO IDEA WHAT HE THOUGHT OF ME.

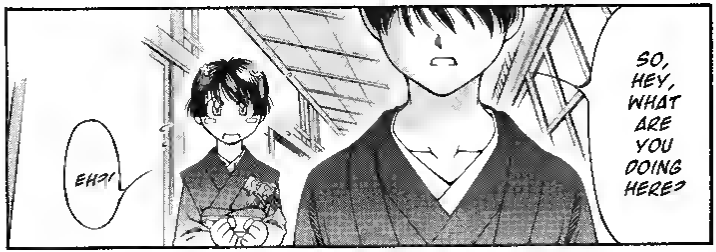






Y-YES, MOTHER
GO ALONG WITH HIM, AOI

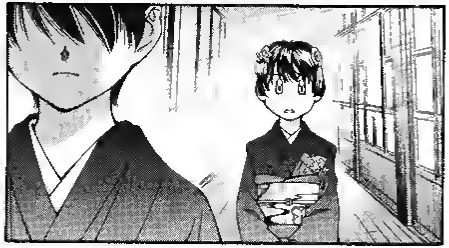
KAORU, TAKE AOI OUT TO PLAY.
YES, SIR

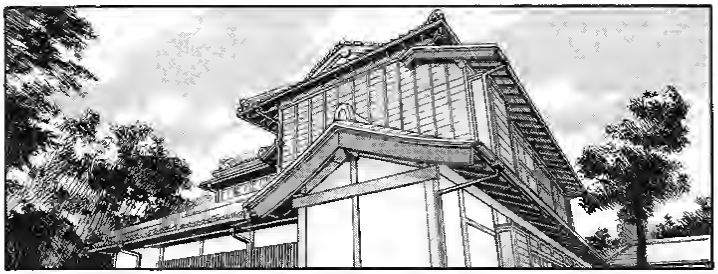

EH?!
SO, HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

HMMM...

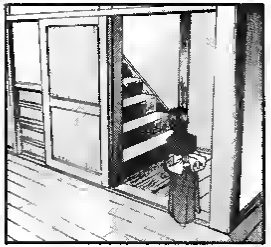
UM AOI CAME HERE TO BECOME...
A HANA-BISHI BRIDE
whisper

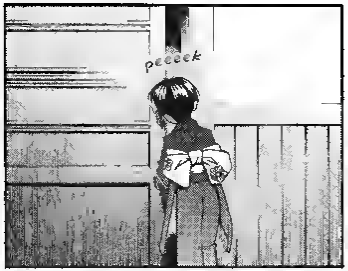
I KNOW IT LOOKS NICE... BUT THIS PLACE IS AWFUL



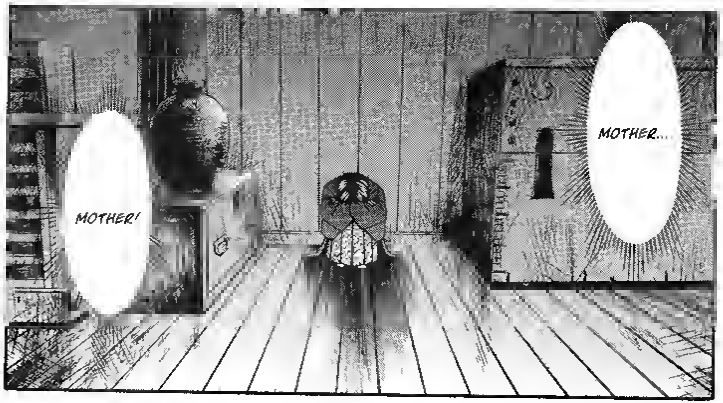


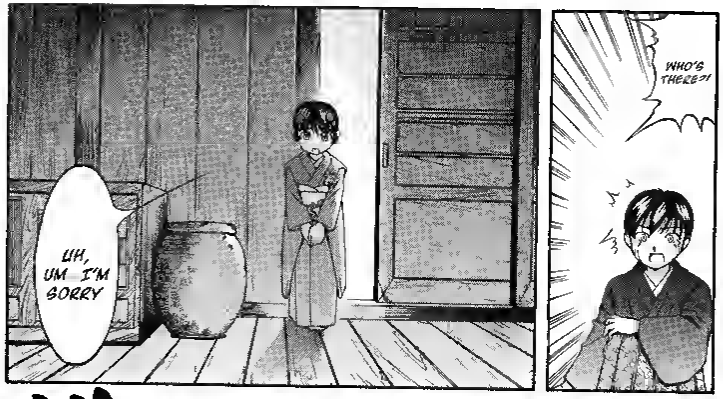
UH...
UH...




peeeek

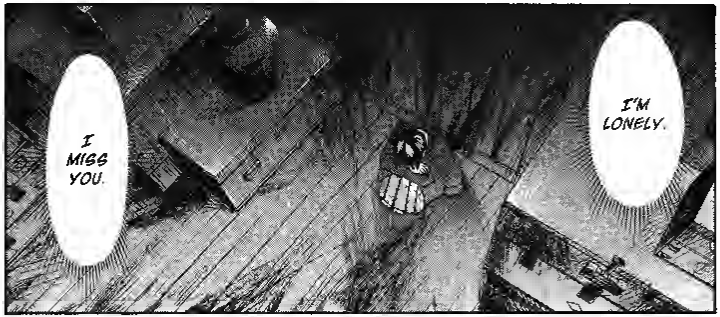
UGH...


MOTHER!
MOTHER...


UH, UM... I'M SORRY
WHO'S THERE?!

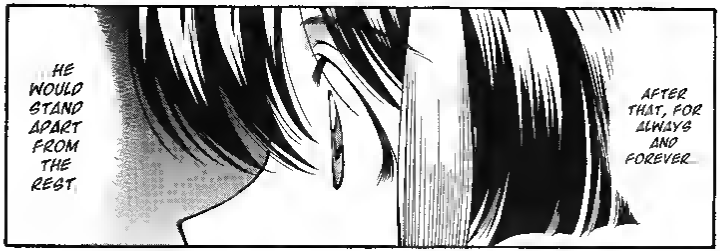
AOI WILL BE KAORU-SAMA'S BRIDE, S-SO...
WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE...?

NO WAY! THAT WAS GRAND-FATHER'S IDEA--I DIDN'T AGREE!!


I MISS YOU.
I'M LONELY.

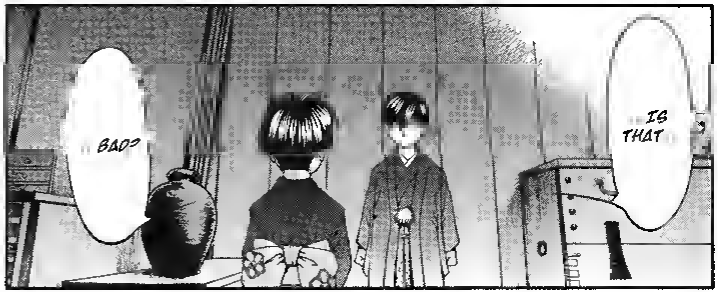
...AND HOW HE HAD ALWAYS BEEN ALONE.
IT WAS THEN THAT I LEARNED ABOUT KAORU...

MOTHER...


...HE WOULD STAND APART FROM THE REST.
AFTER THAT, FOR ALWAYS AND FOREVER...

I'LL ALWAYS, ALWAYS BE BY YOUR SIDE

S-BUT AOI WANTS TO BE WITH KAORU-SAMA


BAD?
IS THAT

NO... BUT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE. THERE'S NO WAY YOU COULD ALWAYS BE BY MY SIDE.

MAYBE NOT...BUT AOI WILL NEVER FORGET KAORU-SAMA, NO MATTER WHAT!

SO NO MATTER WHERE WE ARE, WE WILL BE TOGETHER

EVERY DAY OF AOI'S LIFE, SHE'LL CARRY KAORU-SAMA IN HER HEART

THUMP
THAT'S RIGHT. THIS PLACE...
...IS WHERE IT ALL BEGAN FOR ME.

WE'LL ALWAYS, ALWAYS BE TOGETHER.

THIS IS WHERE EVERYTHING BEGAN FOR KAORU-SAMA AND AOI...

藍より青し

AI YORI AOSHI

Chapter 133: Gizetsu—Disownment

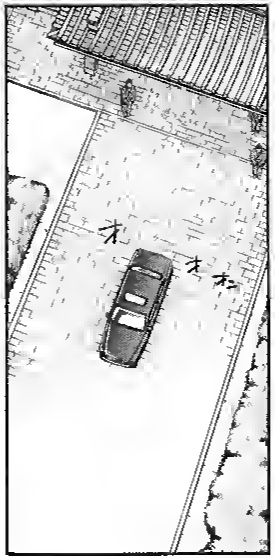
End of Chapter 132: Tsuikai—Remembrance

WELCOME. WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.

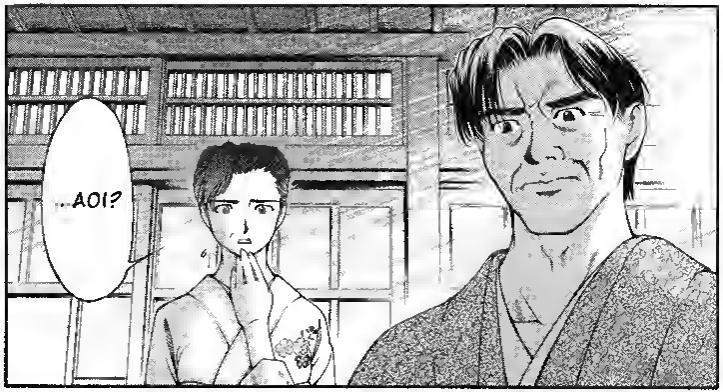
THE SAME SHE'S ANXIOUS TO SEE HER PARENTS, THOUGH

HOW IS AOI DOING?

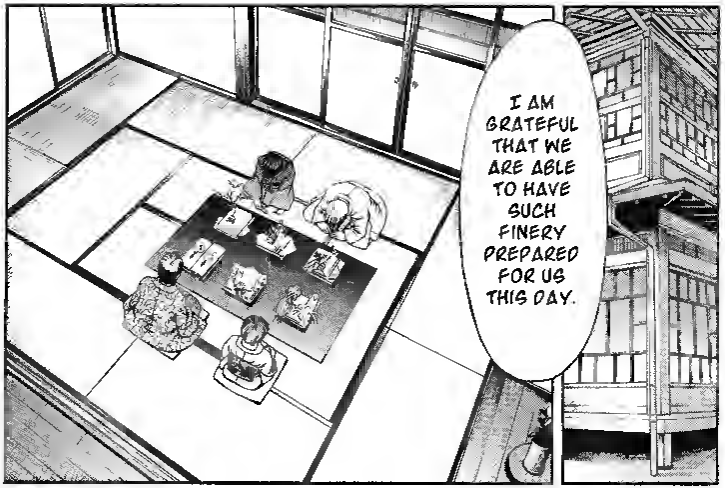
CRREAK

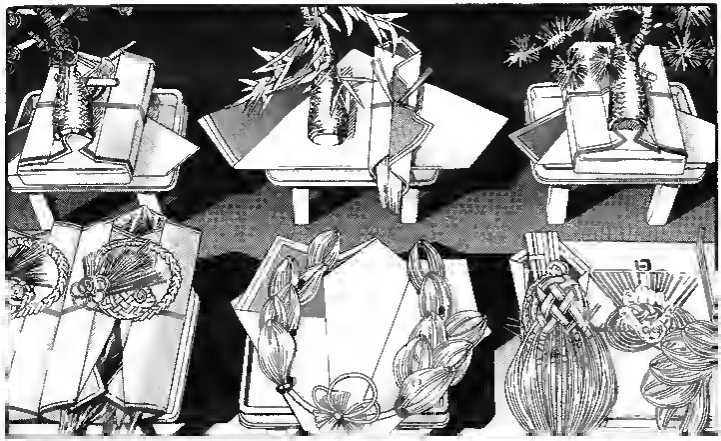

オ オオン

ギィ CREEEEAKイ

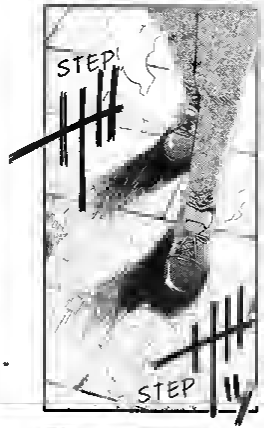

...AOI?

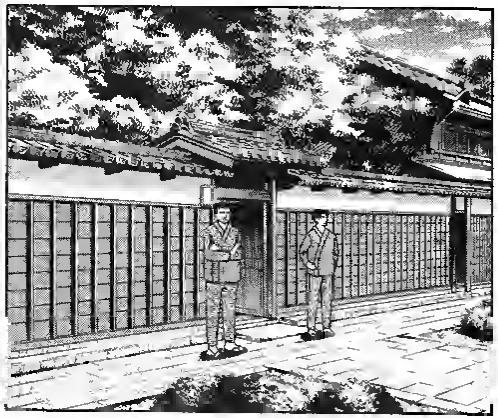
Hah hah
hah!


I AM GRATEFUL THAT WE ARE ABLE TO HAVE SUCH FINERY PREPARED FOR US THIS DAY.



THANK YOU FOR COMING ALL THIS WAY TO SEE US.


STEP
STEP

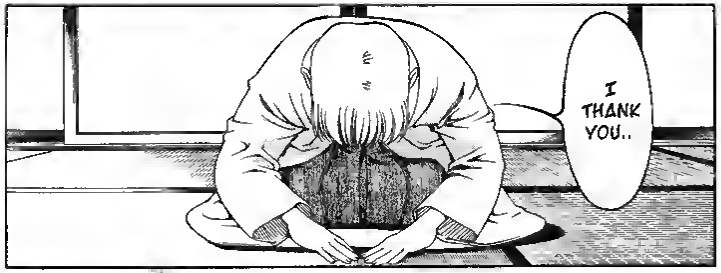


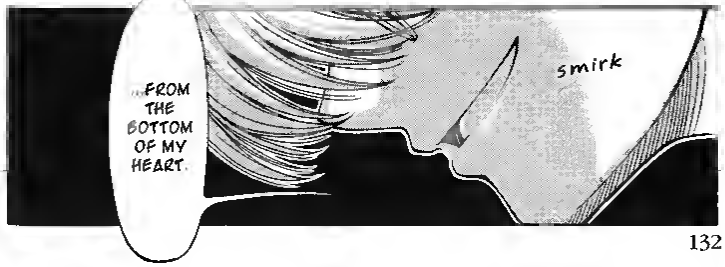
gasp

DO YOU HAVE AN APPOINT-MENT, SIR?

LET ME INSIDE.

IT IS THANKS TO YOU, HONORABLE PARENTS...
THAT THE TWO OF US WILL BE JOINED


I THANK YOU..


smirk
...FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART.

PLEASE, STOP! YOU ARE NO LONGER ONE OF THE HANABISHI...

ズズ
UHH

HUH?!

YOU. YOU KNOW ME. TELL HIM!

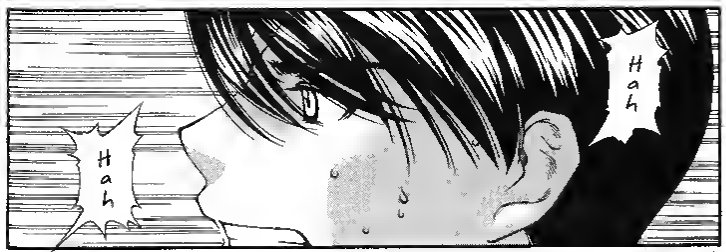
HUH?! WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

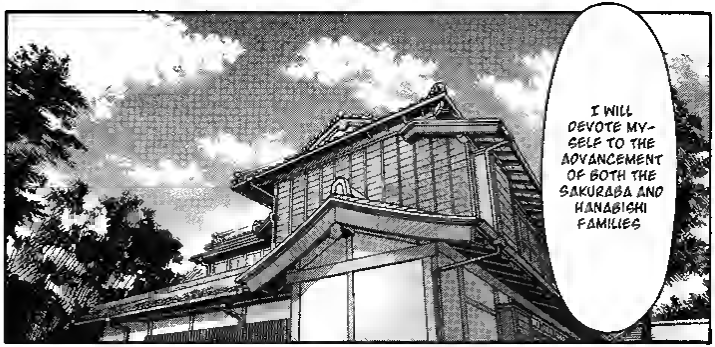
EH?!

PA-POW
AH!

NOW, KAORU-DONO, HURRY!!
GET INSIDE! DO IT!
MIYABI-SAN...

DASH

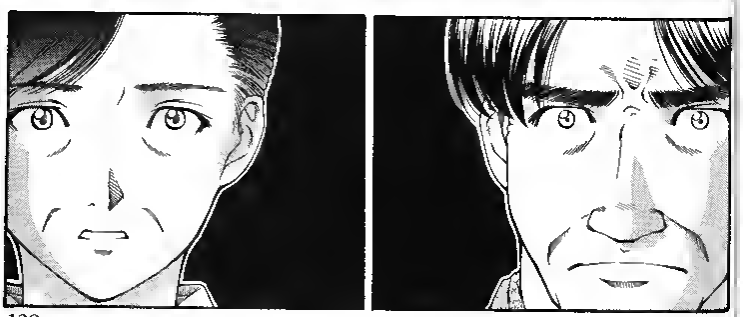

Hah
Hah


I WILL DEVOTE MYSELF TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF BOTH THE SAKURABA AND HANABISHI FAMILIES

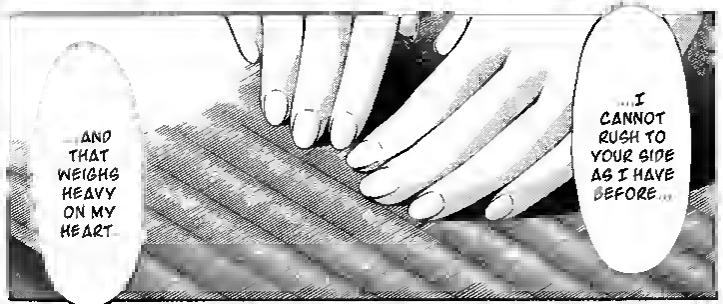
AOI-SAN, DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY TO YOUR PARENTS?
YES.
I HOPE YOU WILL ALWAYS LOOK ON ME WITH FAVOR.

I AM PLEASED TO SEE THAT YOU ARE WELL
FATHER...

FOR MY SAKE, PLEASE STAY HEALTHY AND LIVE LONG LIVES.



NO...IF YOU OR MOTHER WERE TO FALL ILL IN THE FUTURE...
ARE YOU BEING SARCASTIC?

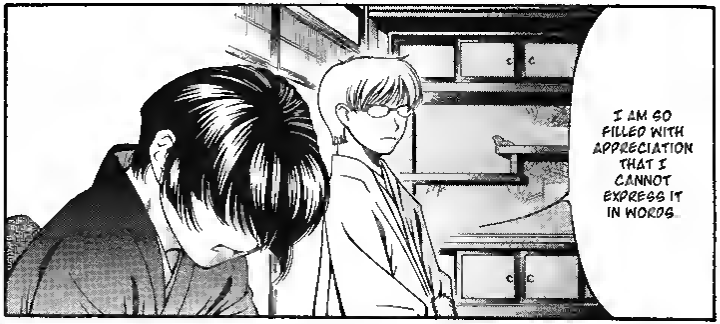

...AND THAT WEIGHS HEAVY ON MY HEART...
...I CANNOT RUSH TO YOUR SIDE AS I HAVE BEFORE...

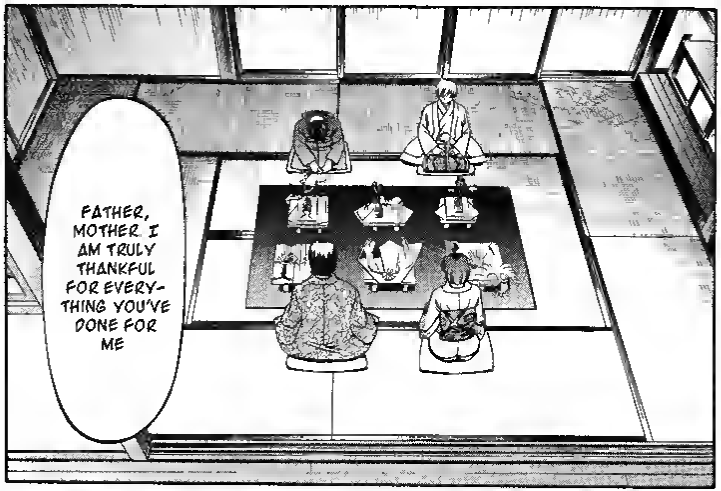
MOTHER
FATHER

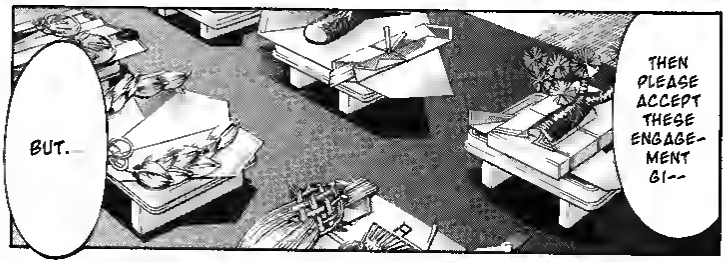
WHEN IT'S ALL SAID AND DONE, I AM NOTHING IF NOT AN UNGRATEFUL CHILD
IT FEELS LIKE AN ETERNITY SINCE WE LAST SAW EACH OTHER, DOESN'T IT?

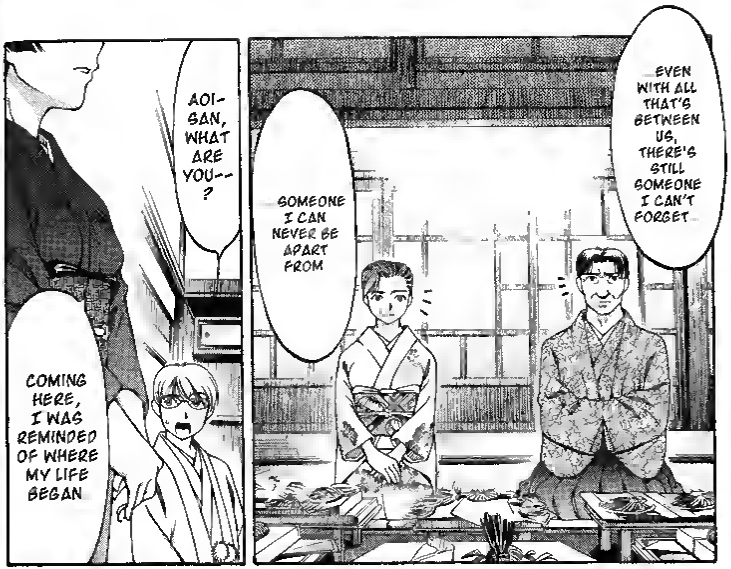
...OPPOSING FATHER, BRINGING MY MOTHER GRIEF, AND YET...
LEAVING HOME WITHOUT PERMISSION...

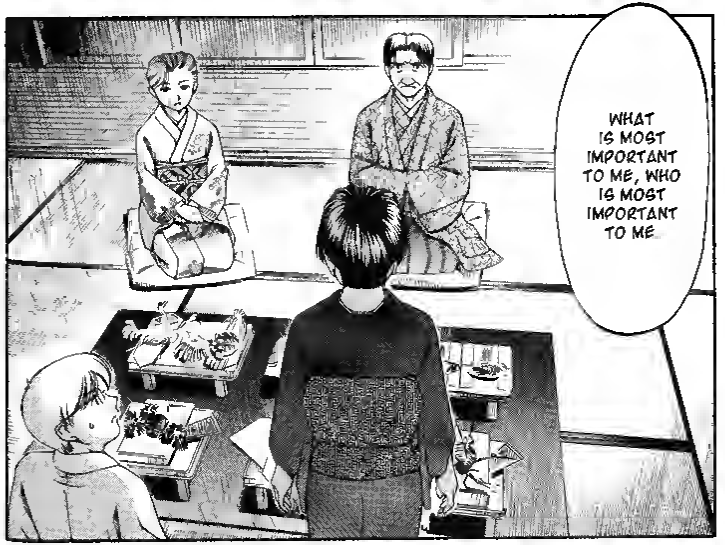
I WILL NEVER FORGET THE DEBT OF GRATITUDE I OWE YOU FOR RAISING ME.
...YOU'VE NEVER STOPPED WORRYING ABOUT ME.


I AM SO FILLED WITH APPRECIATION THAT I CANNOT EXPRESS IT IN WORDS.

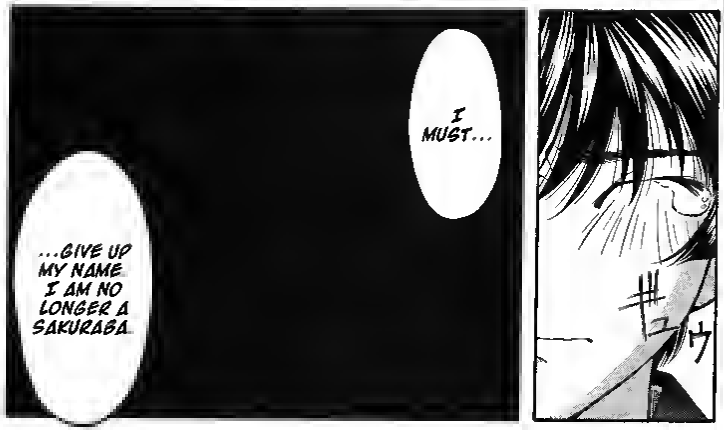

FATHER, MOTHER. I AM TRULY THANKFUL FOR EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE FOR ME


BUT...
THEN PLEASE ACCEPT THESE ENGAGEMENT GI--


AOI-SAN, WHAT ARE YOU--?
COMING HERE, I WAS REMINDED OF WHERE MY LIFE BEGAN
SOMEONE I CAN NEVER BE APART FROM
EVEN WITH ALL THAT'S BETWEEN US, THERE'S STILL SOMEONE I CAN'T FORGET


WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO ME, WHO IS MOST IMPORTANT TO ME

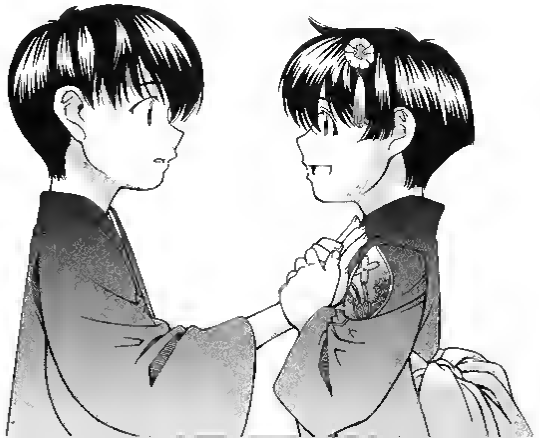
I'M SORRY.
I TRULY MEANT MY PARENTS NO HARM.

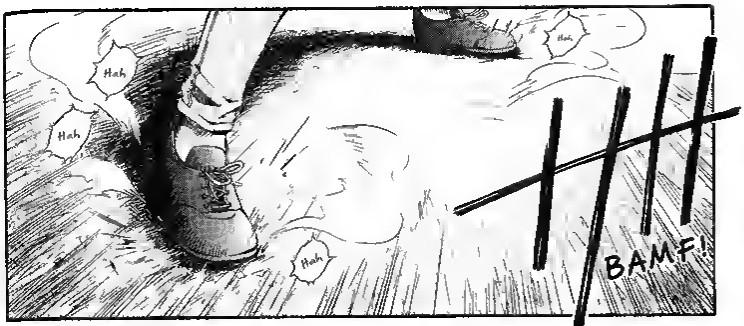

I MUST...
...GIVE UP MY NAME. I AM NO LONGER A SAKURABA.

EVEN IF IT MEANS THROWING EVERYTHING AWAY...AOI MUST BE WITH KAORU-SAMA.

藍より青し

AI YORI AOSHI





End of Chapter 153: Gizensh — Disownment

藍より青し

AI YORI AOSHI

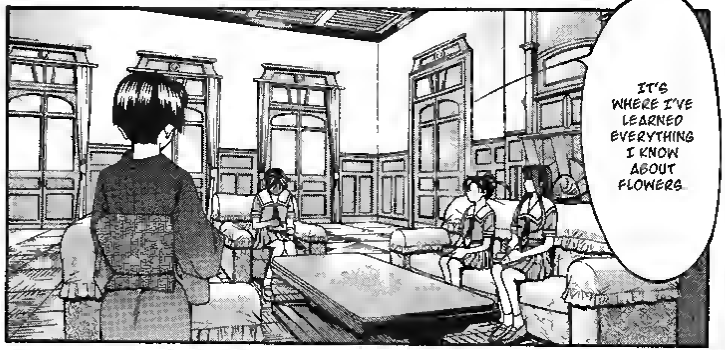
Special Chapter: Hanakotoba—Language of Flowers

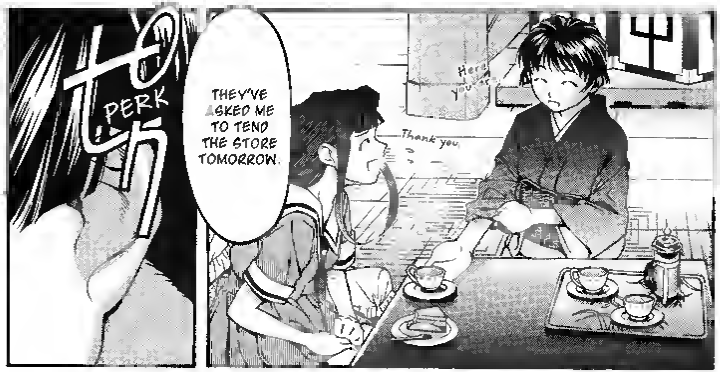
Ai-Ao Theatre, Part 33: Starting Point

NATSUKI-CHAN, I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WORKED PART-TIME AT A FLOWER SHOP.

SOMETIMES SHE ASKS ME TO HELP AND STUFF.

A LADY WHO LIVES IN MY APARTMENT COMPLEX WORKS THERE.
IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S A REAL PART-TIME JOB.


IT'S WHERE I'VE LEARNED EVERYTHING I KNOW ABOUT FLOWERS.


七つ
PERK
THEY'VE ASKED ME TO TEND THE STORE TOMORROW.
Thank you.

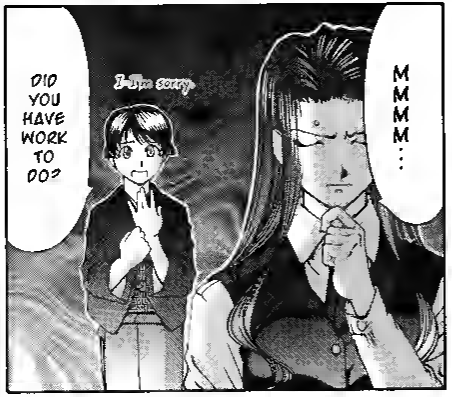
REALLY? OH, PLEASE, LET ME COME ALONG, TOO!!

YAAAY!
WOULD IT BE ALL RIGHT? THANK YOU!
DID YOU REALLY MEAN IT? YOU WANT TO GO WITH ME?
B-BUT, IT MIGHT GET LONELY IF IT'S JUST ME...
I KNOW! I COULD HAVE MIYABI-SAN COME WITH ME!

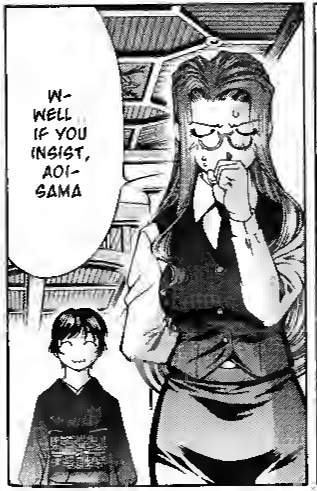
I-I-IT'S NOT LIKE THAT
OH!
THAT WAS A REALLY UNUSUAL TONE OF VOICE TO HEAR FROM YOU
A-ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, AOI-SAN?

THOUGH, IT COULD BE PROBLEMATIC.

Hmmm
NO, I'M TRYING TO DECIDE WHAT KIND OF APRON TO WEAR.

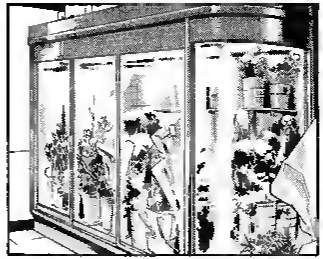

I-I'm sorry.
DID YOU HAVE WORK TO DO?
MMMM...

RIGHT, MIYABI-SAN?!!
TWITCH


W-WELL IF YOU INSIST, AOI-SAMA

Ugh
SMILE
LET'S BOTH GO.

Hanakichi



TH-THIS IS WEIRD.

I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS MANY CUSTOMERS IN THIS SHOP BEFORE.

IT MUST BE...

AND ONE OTHER SPECIAL BUD...

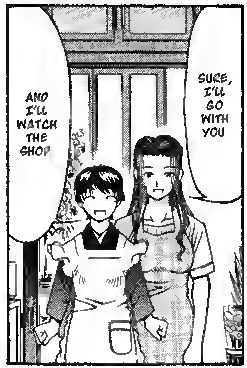
A LILY OF THE VALLEY IS BLOOMING LIKE CRAZY, TOO!
A LILY OF THE VALLEY STANDS FOR "PURITY."

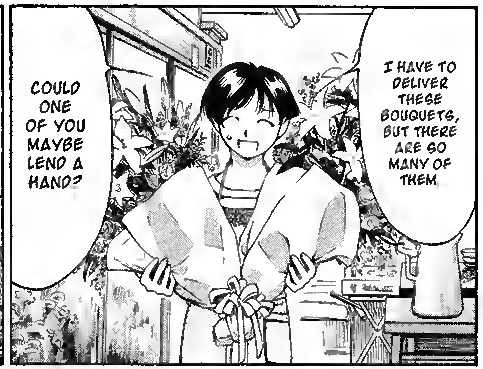
BECAUSE WE HAVE A SPLENDID AFRICAN DAISY BLOOMING IN HERE!
AN AFRICAN DAISY IS CODE FOR "SUPREME BEAUTY."

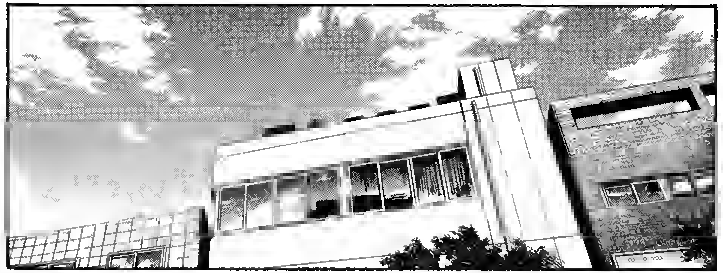
あう
AHHHH...
B-BRIGHT TOO BRIGHT!
She's so clueless
UH, YEAH
I'M SURPRISED AT ALL THE MALE CUSTOMERS
NATSUKI-SAN IT'S HARD WORK TO RUN A FLOWER SHOP, HUH?
IT'S AMAZING HOW ENCHANTING GROWN WOMEN CAN BE

THE SWEET SCENT OF THE FLOWERS RAPIDLY DRAWS YOU IN...
Thank you very much!
IF THIS KEEPS UP, WE'LL BE COMPLETELY OUT OF FLOWERS BEFORE CLOSING!

Hana kichi

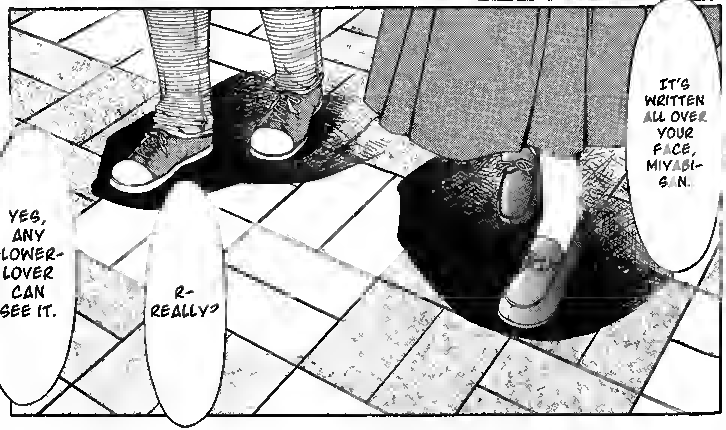

SURE, I'LL GO WITH YOU
AND I'LL WATCH THE SHOP


I HAVE TO DELIVER THESE BOUQUETS, BUT THERE ARE SO MANY OF THEM.
COULD ONE OF YOU MAYBE LEND A HAND?

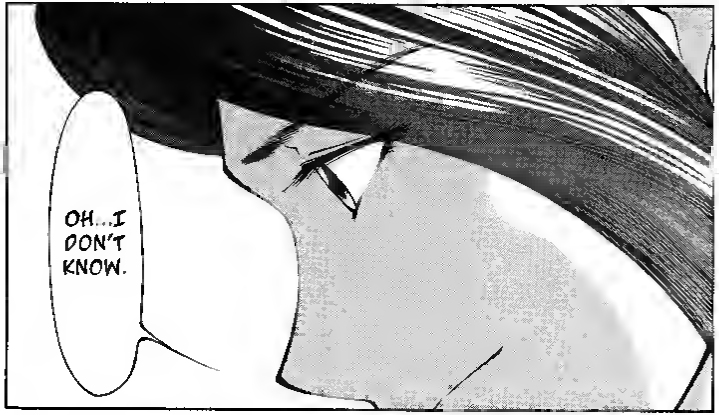


YOU REALLY LIKE FLOWERS, DON'T YOU, MIYABI-SAN?

AS MUCH AS THE NEXT PERSON
C'MON, DON'T BE BASHFUL YOU LOVE THEM!

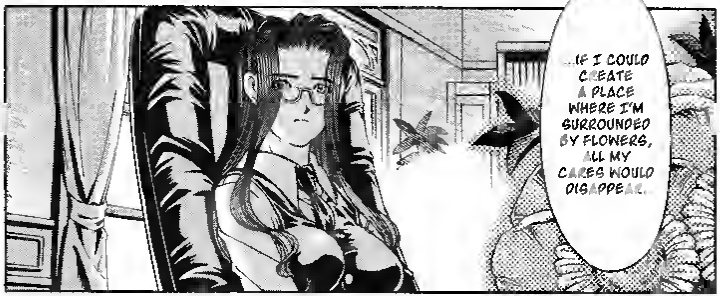

IT'S WRITTEN ALL OVER YOUR FACE, MIYABI-SAN.
R-REALLY?
YES, ANY FLOWER-LOVER CAN SEE IT.

NATSUKI-SAN, WILL YOU MAKE A CAREER OF BEING A FLORIST?
HMM, I DUNNO. I HAVEN'T THOUGHT THAT FAR AHEAD.
WHAT ABOUT YOU, MIYABI-SAN? IT SUITS YOU.


OH...I DON'T KNOW.

ANY WORLD WHERE I'M A FLORIST IS A DREAM WORLD.
A DREAM WORLD?

I LOOK AT THE FLOWERS ON MY DESK AND THINK.
SOMETIMES, AFTER BEING SWAMPED WITH MASSIVE AMOUNTS OF WORK...

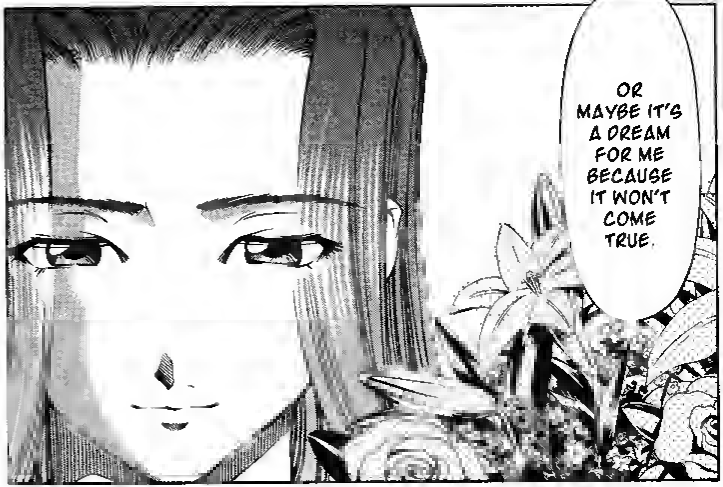

...IF I COULD CREATE A PLACE WHERE I'M SURROUNDED BY FLOWERS, ALL MY CARES WOULD DISAPPEAR.

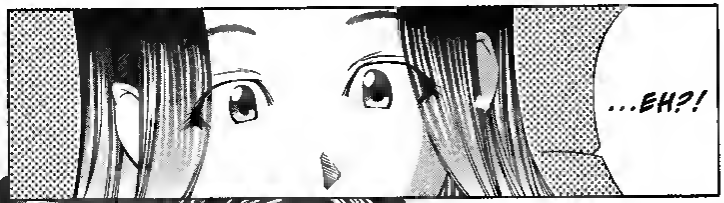
I WISH I COULD BE LIKE THE FLOWERS AND JUST LIVE.

...IF I EVER DO BECOME A FLORIST...
PLEASE COME HELP AT MY SHOP EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE!

SO, MIYABI-SAN...

BUT FOR ME, IT'S A DREAM THAT WON'T COME TRUE.


OR MAYBE IT'S A DREAM FOR ME BECAUSE IT WON'T COME TRUE.


...EH?!

YOU HAVE TO!! PROMISE!

OKAY.

Hanakichi
HUH? A CAMPANULA?

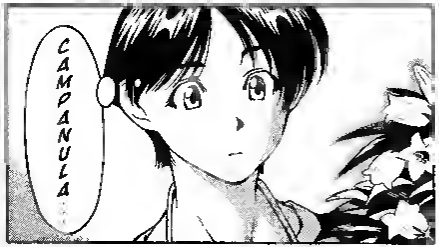
YOU GUYS SOLD MORE FLOWERS IN ONE DAY THAN WE DO IN SIX MONTHS.
Must order.

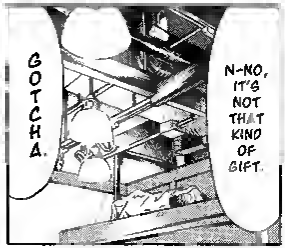
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. IT'S ON THE HOUSE.
YES. WOULD YOU SELL ME ONE?

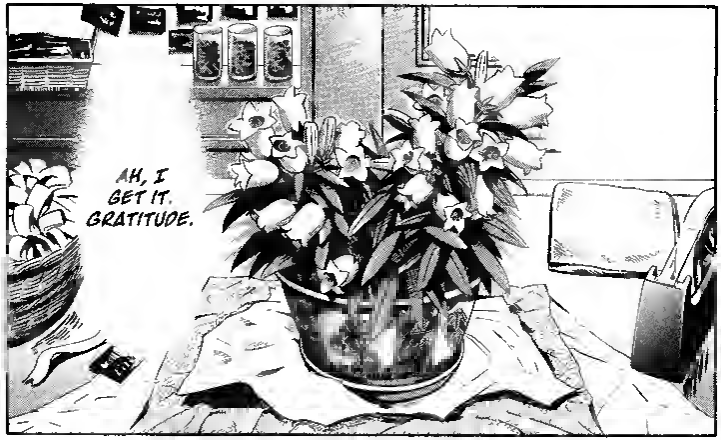
GRINNN

YES.
heh
heh
heh
IS IT FOR SOMEONE?

A ROSE MEANS "LOVE," AND A CARNATION MEANS "PURE LOVE."
花吉
HANAKICHI
IN THAT CASE, WOULDN'T ROSES OR CARNATIONS BE BETTER?


CAMPANULA...


GOTCHA.
N-NO, IT'S NOT THAT KIND OF GIFT.

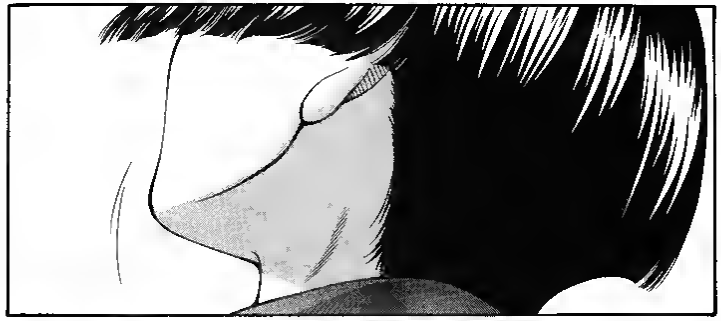

AH, I GET IT. GRATITUDE.

MMMM...

Heh heh!
ちょん
POKE
ALL RIGHT!!
キュ

藍より青し

AI YORI AOSHI



End of Special Chapter: Hanakotoba—Language of Flowers

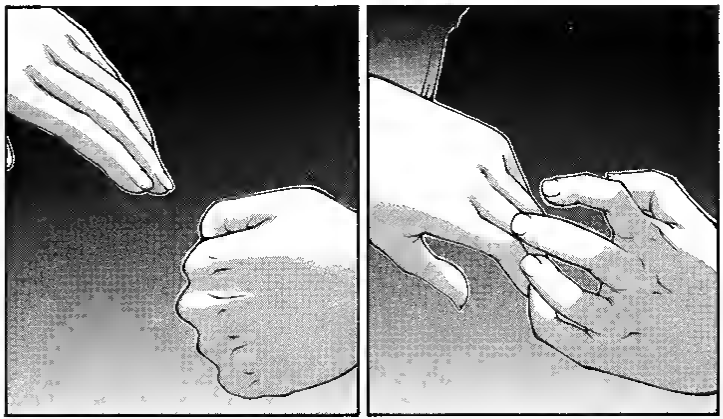
IN THE CONCLUSION OF

藍より青し

AI YORI AOSHI™

Aoi has made her choice, and Kaoru has arrived, but will they be able to determine their own fate? Kaoru's younger brother swears that as head of the Hanabishi, he will take everything Kaoru has, including Aoi, no matter where they try to run.

When the former residents of the boarding house reunite, will the memories they share bring happiness...or tears?



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